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Lead 200

Middlebrooks

**My Day as a Leader**

Last week I was chosen as a leader to do a leadership challenge over the course of a couple snow days. The challenge was to interview potential people in the UD community and outside of UD who we thought were leaders. My group consisted of five people including myself. When I first got the email that I was a leader I thought, ‘how am I going to do this without having class when the assignment is due next class’? My first initiative was to email my entire team and explain the challenge we were given over our day’s offs.

This was quite the challenge for me as a leader. I wasn’t really sure on how to approach the situation to make sure the assignment got done. Out of the four other group members only two got back to me. Between the three of us we were able to generate four interviews. It was very frustrating that I never heard from the other two group members. I wanted to be able to have everyone in the group contribute more instead of half the people doing the work. Even though with my contact I was even unable to talk to one of my group members at all, as if she was ignoring every email. Another thing I could have done was having deadlines. I didn’t set up any deadlines for my team, I just asked them to get the interviews done whenever they could by class time to those who volunteered to help. Having deadline gives more structure to a group and without the deadlines I allowed for my team members more room with the possibility of not getting the interviews done.

What was really helpful is that I set up a Google doc, which allowed everyone in the group to see the interviews that people posted. We could read them and evaluate them in order to do the reflection. As the leader of the group I thought it would have been more helpful if we were all able to meet up before class just to go over the interviews and see what people thought. This probably wasn’t the best idea, knowing that everyone has very different schedules. Since we weren’t able to meet up as a group I asked everyone to write in the Google doc a response to the reflection questions regarding the interviews. Only one person did this and it was not I. Because I was the leader I know that I should have done the reflection myself so I could lead by example, but in the back of my mind since one of my members already did it, I believed I could just read off of her answers. Maybe if I had also written in the Google doc about the reflections another member of my team would have done so too. I know in order to be a great leader, you must lead by example and I did not do tis for the challenge.

When we were able to have class again, our last challenge as a leader was to fire someone in our group. In my mind I knew exactly who I was going to fire since I had two people ein my group who did not contribute at all. Even though I knew who I was going to fire it was still an uncomfortable and uneasy feeling to have to say to someone. I tried every possibly idea I could to get out of firing someone, but it didn’t work. The challenge in firing someone is that, of course it is uncomfortable but in like you may be face to do it regardless of your feelings. In time it would get easier, especially if you have to do it more than once because you learn how to do it better.

From this leadership challenge I was able to learn different aspects about how to be a leader. One thing that I know I took to heart is that, as a leader if you want respect and work to get done you have to lead by example. If your followers see you slack off and not take the word seriously, then they wont either and nothing will get done. Also having good structure is key to getting work done on time. Although all the interviews were handed in and written I did not give my group deadlines, which had the possibility of making things easier. Lastly, I took away that even though things in life make you uncomfortable and give you an uneasy feeling, such as firing someone, it happens in life and you have to be prepared to handle it especially as a leader.