

Case Study: The Struggling Business Project Team

In a senior high school business course, a group of students is tasked with designing a project proposal for a new startup. The group consists of five members: Sarah, John, Lisa, Mark, and Emily. Each student brings different strengths to the table—Sarah is creative, John is analytical, Lisa is detail-oriented, Mark is a strong communicator, and Emily has excellent organizational skills.

During their initial meetings, the group quickly runs into problems. Sarah, excited about her creative ideas, dominates the conversation, often cutting off others before they finish speaking. John, while knowledgeable, tends to dismiss ideas he disagrees with without considering them fully. Lisa is quiet and hesitant to share her thoughts, fearing they won't be valued. Mark tries to mediate but ends up siding with the louder voices to keep the peace. Emily, frustrated by the lack of direction, becomes disengaged, feeling her organizational skills are being ignored.

As the deadline for their project proposal approaches, the group realizes they have made little progress. The lack of effective communication and collaboration has left them with a disjointed plan that doesn't reflect the strengths of each member. The students are stressed, blaming each other for the lack of progress, and no one feels confident in their proposal.

Diary Prompt:

Consider your own group experiences in school. Do you identify with this case study group dynamic? Which student is closest to you? How could you work on your own skill set to be better prepared for group collaborations?

Listening

What kind of listening style do you think you default to? Which do you think is the hardest? What kind(s) of listening styles do you think you need to practice in preparation for your group collaboration experiences? What are potential obstacles that you may face in trying to develop this skill? How do you imagine trying to overcome the obstacle(s)?

This diary allows you to make multiple entries, so feel free to add additional reflections throughout the week!