

Boat Building Reflective Essay

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Day1-Period 3



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I was nervous about how limited the materials were, and that not everybody would be able to lash the pieces of wood together, correctly. I was most nervous though with the team work and capabilities of the team members. The dental floss is a very thin string, so it caused us to get cuts on our fingers, and not allow us to make the lashes as tight as possible. Another initial thought about the experiment was that we wouldn't make the boat, capable to hold Mr. Kenyon.

The spaghetti boat experiment worked towards this experiment because of two reasons. One reason was because we all got an equal knowledge of buoyancy fresh in our minds. Another reason was because the spaghetti boat experiment allowed us to not only build boats, but relationships with new people.

The position I received, for the Project Float Me project, was the position of First Mate. I chose this position so I would show you, Mr. Kenyon, that I am capable of having responsibilities with being ultimately responsible for the whole group, which I imagined would be a hard task.

Depending on who was in my group I would change my position to ensign. Some days this past quarter, students wouldn't listen and respect my leadership role and would tend to just sit there and do nothing, or even doing homework for another class. If I knew the background of the students and they were all showing enthusiasm for the project, then I would gladly become captain.

I expected to be a little frustrated with this job, but I also expected to have enthusiastic team members. It didn't help the students were just choosing boatbuilding as an easy class to pass, and not actually being interested in boats. Ultimately it set our group back, because people weren't putting 100%, or at least it didn't seem like 100%.

My position made it hard for me to maintain interest in the project. I became very discouraged, because people didn't want to work. In the end, we did get our project done, but it more or less resembled a box, not a boat. It seemed more like a replica to a spaghetti boat model.

No, not all of my team members worked to their fullest. I'm not sure if I'm supposed to mention names or not, but there were a lot of absences from my team, and when they were there, not everyone put in 100%. Not all ensigns followed directions, and not all leaders, "lead" the team.

We carried out the whole plan till the end of the build. Like I stated above, I think we could have designed a better "boat" design; it looked more like a box with a pointy front rather than an aerodynamic frame. With the high walls it would make the paddling of the boat, very hard and painful.

Besides having the responsibility of directing the ensigns under me, I also built big parts of the boat. The main thing I worked on was the building of the sides, and how the sides would fit together. This was hard because I had to figure out how all the sides would come together with the bottom, and the front and back.

One way I would have liked for this to have gone, was for me to have more say in the design. From the beginning I don't think my voice was fully heard, partly from my doing, but also because people did what they wanted.

I think that our boat will float, and could hold like 3 people, my only concern is how it is going to go through the water, in a "speed" challenge. It somewhat resembles a box, with a pointed front, so it looks as if aerodynamics didn't even come into play here.

Our boat didn't do the best, but it didn't do the worse either. I'm pretty sure we came in 3rd out of our class, and our whole group of 9 boats. I guess somehow on the way down to the beach, our boat fell off of a truck, and was punctured, but we managed to still stay afloat with Mr. Kenyon inside. My initial conclusions were that we weren't going to do the best, but I am happy we got 3rd place and not last place.

One thing I would change about this project is that everyone would be equal in power. I would try this project again, but my only concern is that if I'm the only 1 doing the work, then I can blame myself for error, and hold myself accountable. I have no way to hold someone else accountable if they don't care about the project or even their grades.

I would redesign the boat more aerodynamically, if I had the choice to redo the project. We weren't sure how much aerodynamics we would have to compensate for displacement, to hold Mr. Kenyon. What ended up happening is that we over underestimated how little displacement we needed to hold Mr. Kenyon. We would need to find a balance between aerodynamics and displacement,

because we made the walls on the boat way to high, so it made it impossible for Mr. Kenyon to be able to paddle the boat back and forth.

Out of the three positions that we had to choose from before, I would go with ensign. I would choose ensign because I then wouldn't have to push people to work, for my grade. I would only have to rely on my efforts to be able to get a 100% every class, because I'm a hard worker, and I listen to authority very well.