Teamwork

Recently in a university course focused on coding through the program MATLAB, we had a team project assigned. I was working with two other classmates who were of different types of engineering than me. This created a diverse group who had strengths in different areas. The team project was to code a basic game for the computer. We chose Connect Four.

We all worked on the project, but I took on the task of making the code efficient and shortening it. I knew there was a shorter way to code Connect Four; we just hadn’t figured it out yet. I did some research and learned how to create a function using MATLAB. This brought the code from 220+ lines down to 62 lines, making it extremely efficient.

I communicated with my group members by having an open discussion about what problems needed to be addressed and what was the best way to approach them. Yes we wanted to get the project done in a timely manner, but we also wanted to get the best grade we could. One of the members of the group was not doing well to Connect Four. We needed to code two games, so she chose to code a simple card game. This worked out really well because she coded that by herself, which left me and the other group member to code Connect Four. By having opportunities for coding on all levels, we were able to encourage the contributions from everyone.

By splitting up the work for coding the two games, we were able to finish in a timely manner. We finished our project about a week early, so we were able to relax before the presentation. However, that does not mean it was easy-going all of the time. One of the group members would consistently show up late to class or meetings. In the beginning of the project, we set goals and expectations for ourselves and the team. Our team expectation was that each person pulls an equal weight. Because this member was not pulling the weight, we had a discussion with him. Following the discussion, we worked really well as a team and finished in a very timely manner.