

**Shark Tank: Small Group**

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### **Shark Tank: Small Group**

For the Shark Tank project, I collaborated with three talented group members: Emily, Khai, and Henry. We initiated meaningful communication two days after the assignment was posted and quickly established a plan to meet in person the following Thursday. This early interaction set a positive tone for our collaboration, demonstrating the importance of effective communication in group dynamics. According to Vendetti & McLean (2015), establishing clear communication channels and setting norms early on is crucial for fostering a productive team environment. Our shared commitment to the project and willingness to express our thoughts and concerns allowed us to develop a strong foundation for teamwork. As we moved forward, our collective goal of completing the assignment two weeks ahead of schedule became a unified decision, driving our efforts and enhancing our group cohesion.

#### **Group Productivity and Common Goals**

I felt incredibly fortunate to be part of the group chosen for the Shark Tank project. Within two days of the assignment being posted, I reached out to all group members, and we agreed to meet in person once a week at the LCC Library. I was pleased to be part of a group already communicating so effectively. At our first meeting, each group member contributed to the conversation and expressed their concerns about working on the team project. Setting norms early in the group development process is crucial for establishing a foundation of expectations and behaviors, which enhances group cohesion and productivity (Vendetti & McLean, 2015). We started a group text chain using our personal phone numbers for quicker, easier responses. All members agreed that we shared the goal of completing the assignment two weeks before the deadline, so we could focus on our essay portion of the project. Our group worked well together,

as we were all determined and shared common goals. I have never worked on a group project before that worked together as well as we did.

### **Group Development and Membership**

Our group quickly moved through Tuckman's stages of group development. In the forming stage, we established our meeting schedule and communication norms. We encountered disagreements over presentation styles during the storming stage, but effective communication helped us navigate them. This led to the norming stage, where we established trust and clear roles, allowing us to perform efficiently. The performing stage was demonstrated by all of us individually contributing to the project, attending meetings on time, effectively communicating through our group chat, and problem-solving when moving forward after losing a group member. Our adjourning stage was marked by the completion of our project, which felt almost like a break-up. We all decided to remain friends and keep in touch, which was comforting. Vendetti & McLean (2015) state that group membership dynamics are crucial to group function. Our ability to adapt and support one another was instrumental to our success.

### **Conflict and Its Impact**

We did not experience any significant conflicts; however, we lost a member a little over halfway through the project. This created unease among our group members, as we were looking forward to the ex-members' technological skills to help us put the video portion of the project together. When we first learned that Henry would no longer participate in the project, a wave of disappointment washed over us: we felt let down, even though we understood the personal reasons behind his decision. His absence affected our group dynamic and left us grappling with the uncertainty of how to fill the gap he left behind. We had all come to rely on Henry's expertise, particularly in the technical aspects of our project, and his departure forced us to

quickly reassess our roles and responsibilities. According to Vendetti & McLean (2015), group member dynamics can shift significantly with the loss or addition of members, impacting the group's overall functioning. After the initial shock of losing a member wore off, our group quickly readjusted and distributed that member's share of the project. This adaptability is a testament to the group's resilience and effective communication practices, which are essential components of successful group dynamics (Vendetti & McLean, 2015).

### **Group Roles, Responsibilities, and Norms**

Group roles and responsibilities established early on: Emily served as our recorder due to her experience in court reporting, I was the coordinator because of my organizational skills, Khai, with his inquisitive nature, and Henry was our supporter, providing encouragement and reducing stress. Group norms included establishing regular meetings and a group chat for accessible communication. These roles and norms helped maintain a structured and supportive environment, enabling us to work efficiently (Vendetti & McLean, 2015).

### **Communication Concepts and Theories**

Our group's success can be attributed to several communication concepts. Social interdependence theory highlights the importance of shared goals, which motivate us to collaborate effectively. The functional perspective on group decision-making was evident in our problem-solving processes as we evaluated and critiqued ideas to reach the best outcomes. The systems theory of communication helped us understand how changes in group membership affected our dynamics and required us to adapt (Vendetti & McLean, 2015).

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, my experience with the Shark Tank project demonstrated the power of effective communication and teamwork in achieving a common goal. By establishing clear

norms and roles, our group navigated challenges and worked cohesively. The theories and concepts from Vendetti & McLean (2015) provided valuable insights into our group's dynamics, reinforcing the importance of communication in successful collaboration.

## References

Venditti, P., & McLean, S. (2015). *Exploring Group Communication*. Flatworld Publications.

<https://students.flatworldknowledge.com/course/2604081>