Core Competencies

In the invention project, the core competency I addressed most was the “Creative Thinking” part of it. In my group, I was able to generate many ideas by communicating with my partner, Andrew. An example of this happening was whenever Andrew would come up with an idea, adding on to it made it much easier for me to see his perspective and to get my brain to do more generating of ideas. When he and I were creating invention ideas, he said we should create a luxurious toilet, so I was able to build onto that and say that it should have warm, cushioned seats, just like a car. This then helped Andrew think of the idea of adding wheels to it, making it a moving toilet. Being able to make my ideas “work within the constraints of a given form, problem, and materials” by playing with them, was another bit of the core competency that I achieved. When Andrew and I decided that we didn’t want to spend money on this project, I was able to experiment with the given time and objects from our houses to make it work. For example, after we planned our model, I went home and spent hours playing around with the products, many times trying to fill the buckets up with the perfect amount of water, using a smaller colander, and toy trucks instead of paper ones. Not only does communication help in group work but adding onto other’s ideas plays a huge role as well, especially in an invention project where many ideas come up; it encourages the group members to generate more, better concepts.

To help myself generate the best ideas, the part of the core competency piece I addressed was doing something relaxing, being playful, and using strategies that quiet my mind so I can be creative. Instead of just doing the work for having to, I treated this project like a fun job and put my all into every idea. Not was I only able to make my progress look easy, but I was also able to take some time off the project and let my mind focus on something else for a while, An example of this happening was when I was writing out my speech details to explain how the invention worked, I took some time off and played a bit of soccer, did other homework, and got some exercise to clear my mind. When I worked on the project again, I was able fully focus on it. This helped a lot because it made the project feel much easier than what I expected and allowed me to have fun with it. “I deliberately learn about something so that I am able to generate new ideas, or for them to pop in my head”. This was another part of the core competency that I accomplished. It helped me go through many obstacles such as miscommunications, misunderstandings with the invention, or misunderstandings with my partner. This happened when I went home every day and spent more time doing research about similar inventions to mine, than going straight into the making of it. This helped me come up with better ideas for our final invention and fixed all the mistakes it had. Our invention improved in many ways because of this, making it much more entertaining.

Two things I would change for next time is to be calmer during my presentation and helping my partner when it’s his turn to explain our project. Although our group managed to do well, If I had stayed calmer in our presentation, it would’ve been more professional and less hectic for everyone watching. For example, whenever someone would argue against my invention, I would argue back aggressively to defend my ideas. Next time I would also defiantly help my partner understand the project in a good perspective like I did, that way he can feel more confident explaining it. Despite the downs we had, our group managed to do very well because of the strong communication, and the way we handled situations.