Future students,

Know first, that this class will require more time and effort than most of your other classes. Because of all of the time and effort that you will be putting into this class it’s important to make sure that you pick the right project to work on. This means doing more than following your friends in this class, it is important to do some initial research on the topic that each product will be studying, and even consider talking to student who are in 435 about their project to see if it’s something that interests you.

Once you’ve picked your project, things are going to get confusing, but that’s normal and it happens in every team. There’s going to be a lot of research that needs to be done before anything can be started, and although it is probably the most tedious part of the entire project, it needs to be done carefully and thoroughly because it will likely shape the direction of your project. A tip that will aid you in this research is to assign a member of the team to keep track of all of the research articles that are compiled in endnote, which will make citing your final paper much simpler.

Group dynamics may be a major concern depending on the member in your group, but because working learning to work with your team is literally what this class is all about, it’s important that it not be taken lightly. It is a good idea for some elements of this project to elect a team or section leader, however, it is more important to ensure that the thoughts and concerns of all member of the team are heard and considered throughout the entire life of the project.

Finally, the hardest part of this class was the due dates. Our semester experienced an unusually high number of snow days which caused the due dates to change several times throughout the project. This meant that between the group assignments, individual assignments, and online assignments, it was easy to lose track of upcoming due dates. Be sure to check the schedule regularly, and if possible keep track of the upcoming assignments on your phones calendar so they won’t be forgotten.