Lloyd Thurston

MAE 434

4/28/15

Learning2Learn: Reflect on Final Project & Process

Reflect on your project using the following prompts:

ASV Team

* What part of your entire project are you most proud? Why?

The part of our design project that I am proudest of is the design fabrication. The reason I chose this to be the proudest part on the project is no matter what portion of the ASV that is being worked on the team works together with great communication. Examples of this can be found with the pontoon covers design and fabrication, The team came together to finalize a design concept, then two members went off to find and purchases the needed materials while the other members continued working on the ASV for max efficiency and time management. Another time the team worked very well was reorganizing the ASV electronics, while two members organized all the wiring the other two fabricated needed covers and mounts.

* What do you wish you had time to further expand, include, or revise in the project?

The portion of the project that I wish could be further expanded on is the design portion of the ASV. The current boat being sent to competition has numerous areas that can be fixed or upgraded for better efficiency. These upgrades help our team in designing the next ASV for fall's team but takes away the time we could actually fabricate the new frame ourselves.

* When and where did you get stuck while working on the project? How did you overcome your problem?

The portion of this project that slowed the team down the most came from not having the direct support of any computer or electrical members in the design and fabrication processes. The members of the team learned what we needed to complete the tasks from the 435 team and other professors/advisors but things would have taken less time to start if there were permanent team members from the other departments to start the electrical and computer programming portions while the other mechanical members learned what they needed along side them.

* What part of the processes went smoothly for you? How might you repeat that in future writing projects?

The smoothest process for the project was the designing and fabrication of any mechanical portion. These events typically happened when all four members were present, which allowed decisions to be made quickly. Having all four members also meant that multitasking could be performed for a maximum efficiency output on the ASV frame and electrical box. To repeat this in future projects would simply be to do what our current team did, which is set up a weekly meeting time for an efficient means of communication throughout the project process.

* What most important or exciting thing did you learn about your topic while researching and writing this project?

The most exciting thing I learned about while researching this paper was the different programming capabilities for Autonomous vehicles or robots. I have always been more focused on the frame or other mechanical portions of projects, but it was exciting to learn more about the electrical and computer portions on the ASV.

* What did you learn about yourself as a writer?

During this project I learned as a writer that I always need to double check my work. Not only for regular editing norms such as grammar errors or sentence structure, but to make sure the paper answers the right questions both in my own way of thinking and in a more generalized way.