Joel Tejada

Professor Barlow/Professor Leston

ENG 2575

June 30, 2020

Ever since the beginning of the semester, I knew I wanted to focus on the pandemic and how it affected the citizens of New York. Knowing many families who live in what once was the epicenter of the pandemic, I thought about some of the most vulnerable people in Jackson Heights, Elmhurst, and Corona. These three neighborhoods are predominantly made up of Hispanics and I knew members of these communities who have passed not only because of the coronavirus, but also because they were ill informed. This led me to research effective ways information can be passed along to Hispanics in general. This is where I found out how high the presence Hispanics on social media platforms, YouTube, or just the internet overall. After deciding with my group members what platforms we will be using to get our information across, we started doing research on the coronavirus. COVID-19 was spreading alarmingly fast in the aforementioned neighborhoods. To gather the most reliable information from a reliable source, the CDC’s official website was all I needed. It listed the symptoms to watch out for, how the virus spreads, and the precautionary steps to take to help stop the spread of the virus.

1. As a Hispanic, I realized many Hispanic families can talk English, but not actually read in English. I made sure that specific group would also be able to attain the information they need by making sure every piece of information we had was available in both English and Spanish. I worked with Sadeek Brown, Christopher Brown, and Samay Shrestha. Sadeek and Christopher gathered some of the research and information I used for my video. Samay created the pamphlets in both English and Spanish. I introduced the topic we ended up agreeing on. I created the informational video, translated our research for the video, and created an Instagram page to share the pamphlets with everyone. I tried to be as communicative as I could by asking questions, following up with group members, having phone calls, and being in contact with the PPP Collaborators. Communication was at most times difficult because some of our group still had jobs to go to and some even went out of state. Later in the course, I was added to a chat with Gen Li and Jun Liu, who were an exceptional team. They met at planned times and communication played a large role as to why their work turned out so great. Gen Li oversaw gathering all the research while Jun created their website from scratch.

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| **Date** | **Time** | **Joel Tejada** |
| **5/31** | 12:00pm-2:19pm  9:00pm-10:40pm | Worked on Task 1 and submitted it on OpenLab  Worked on Task 2 and submitted in on OpenLab |
| **6/1** |  |  |
| **6/2** | 3:00pm | Contacted Samay through e-mail and text to get started on Task 3 |
| **6/3** | 2:35pm-4:30pm | Started and wrote draft for Task 3 |
| **6/4** | 11:25am  1:00pm-2:44pm  6:19pm-6:23pm | -Get an e-mail from Professor Barlow, where we are introduced to Christopher and Sadeek as our new group members  -Revised Task 3 and submitted it  -I get added to a group chat by Sadeek and Christopher and I send them Task 3 |
| **6/5** | 1:02pm-2:09pm  3:00pm-3:45pm | -We briefly discuss the Audience assignment and throw out suggestions  -Christopher sent us a first draft for Task 4  -Made an edited copy of Christopher’s first draft  -Sadeek also sends an edited draft and we go with his, with some of my points from my draft going into his |
| **6/6** |  |  |
| **6/7** |  |  |
| **6/8** | 7:10-7:30pm | -Sadeek decides he is going to be the one to work on the Audience assignment and we tell him to send us anything he has written before he submits anything |
| **6/9** | 11:11pm | -I text and remind Sadeek to make sure to send the group the Audience piece to the whole group before he submits anything |
| **6/10** | 3:30pm-10:30pm | -Confusion amongst the group of what of what the Professor wanted from the class  -We read Sadeek’s copy of the audience piece and we agree it is too long and complicated and that we all need to be on the same page |
| **6/11** | 3:30pm-4pm  8:30pm-10:47pm | -Discussing if anyone had any ideas of what our topic could be  Suggested Hispanics be a focus on our audience and created a rough draft on google docs of what our audience would look like |
| **6/12** | 11:45am-10:43pm | Constantly active on group chat, discussing what the group should create by the end of the semester, added info to the audience assignment on google docs |
| **6/13** | 2:01pm-2:38pm | -Told everyone on the group that I will not be able to submit our Audience portion and asked if someone else could do it; Sadeek submits the assignment later on |
| **6/14** |  |  |
| **6/15** |  |  |
| **6/16** | 12am-2am | -Working on gathering information and translating info on how to stop spread of the virus |
| **6/17** | 8:30pm-11:00pm | -Continued working on gathering more information and translating info on how to stop spread of the virus |
| **6/18** | 12:00am – 4:00am  1:30pm -1:45pm | -Working on video (spent the night adding images to each slide)  phone call with Sadeek talking about our frustrations with the group and what we can do to move forward |
| **6/19** |  |  |
| **6/20** |  |  |
| **6/21** |  |  |
| **6/22** | 6:30pm-11:30pm  8:15pm-8:35pm | -Group updating each other on their progress, some decisions were made about some of the research we gathered, and discussed our partnership with another group in the class  -Was added to a group chat with the PPP Collaborators and told them about my availability and where I was with the video |
| **6/23** | 1:30am-4am  8:30pm-9pm | -Working on video (changed color of each of the slides from green to blue and changed the font)  -Met up in a group chat with PPP group and was suggested that I experimented with another video editing tool since mine was very limited |
| **6/24** | 2:00am-3am  1:00pm-5:00pm  9:00pm-3:00am | -Attempted to learn how to use Adobe Premium to see if I can start from scratch with a better-looking video but came to the realization that it was too overwhelming  -Deleting information I felt was unnecessary to the video and continued translating  -Doing research and translating ( |
| **6/25** | 2:00pm  2:45pm-3:13pm  3:16pm | -Discussing the e-mail we received from Professor Leston  -Talking on the phone with Sadeek about what the group has left to do  -Followed up with our group to see where everyone is at and gave them a deadline to submit our work to the other group  -Sent an e-mail to Professor Leston to let him know what we were working on so far and what we have |
| **6/26** | 12:00am-3:00am | -Working on video (added the final portion of the video which was the actual history of the coronavirus) and finished it |
| **6/27** | 12:40pm-4:30pm | -Made last minute corrections, uploaded to YouTube, and sent the video to the PPP Coordinators (Gen Li & Jun Liu) |
| **6/28-30** | 8pm-11pm | -Made Instagram account for the project, uploaded the two pamphlets that was created by Samay  -Reviewed the website where our content was being shared |

Professor Lestón,

This semester was most definitely an interesting one. I can honestly say I have not experienced a semester like this one before. While I do believe it fell short from what Professor Barlow originally intended for, I can appreciate what he was doing for this class. Working in a team is inevitable, especially in the workplace. It was meant to prepare us by pairing with us with a group, then coming together as a class at the end of the semester. However, the class failed to accomplish what Professor Barlow had wanted us to accomplish by July. The class was asked at the beginning of the semester what topic we were most interested in. Ironically, it was divided.

While some of the class wanted to focus on the pandemic the world is currently undergoing, there were others who wanted to focus on systemic racism and justice, which has been an issue in the United States for centuries. Both are very interesting topics to choose from, but I ultimately chose to focus on the pandemic. The pandemic has unexpectedly affected many on a global scale. It has been over a century that a phenomenon of this scale has affected not only this nation, but the world.

Group work is something I always hated. After taking this course, my opinion remains. I prefer working by myself because I know I will get the work done. In the past, I have been involved with many group projects and while most were a success, I cannot forget the stress that came along with it. I always found myself making sure the rest of the group were doing their part. There were even times where I had to take over their workload. I would not say that was the case for this course. However, communication was not as smooth as I would have hoped. I like getting things done as soon as possible. And when one group member starts to fall back, that member takes down the group with them.

I will admit, I did find Professor Barlow’s approach exciting at first. He provided us with a non-linear task, and it seemed like he wanted to see what we would be able to come up with as a class. When he was contacted for clarification, he provided no further instructions because he wanted us to figure it out ourselves as a class. And that was exciting. But I think things went crumbling down when options were given to us about what we wanted to work on. I believe that if we focused solely on the pandemic for example, the class would have been less divided. I would like to believe we would have eventually figured out a place for each group and how we could all unite at the end. But that was not the case because several groups preferred to write about the racial divide our country is undergoing. For the entire semester, I had not heard of what any other group was doing. That is up until we got in contact with the PPP Collaborators. Only then, did it feel as if the purpose Professor Barlow had intended for was being reached.

While this semester certainly was not a smooth one, I cannot say I left empty-handed. I had to teach myself how to create an informational video. I spent hours after hours trying to figure it out and, in the end, I created something I am somewhat proud of. I do not think I will ever have the patience to create another video but if I ever need to, I will remember this course. This course also educated me more about the pandemic because of the research our group gathered. I did not know anything about the history of the coronavirus so learning about it was mildly fascinating. Ultimately, this course was a reminder to me of how utterly important communication is. And when there is no communication, no progress is made.

Sincerely,

Joel Tejada