Briana Torres Problem #1

Technical Direction

For the first problem of the semester, as a group we needed to come together to find a solution to deliver a well-constructed peanut butter and jelly sandwich. At first it was a tricky approach because we all underestimated the simplicity of making a sandwich but once we sat down and actually started to proceed with the concept we saw the level of difficulty we were faced with. It was soon that we realized that specific and detailed instructions were going to necessary to execute the build of the sandwich. The main idea, which learned from conducting testing, was that everyone has their own way of doing things. For example, there were three of us in the group and when each of us made our own, each sandwich resulted to be different. We narrowed down the strains of the project, which were delivering a product according to designer expectations and affordability. When designer requests certain look or approach to something, it is in our best interest to deliver one hundred percent if that. We needed all materials to match reference images or to find substitutes that met the requirements. It was initially that we stressed over flavors and types of pantry items as a dominated portion of our work and then shifted to concentrating on the factor that the sandwich had to be as fresh as possible. The easiest part was gathering supplies and budgeting where as the hardest part was creating construction drawings to match our instructions. One approach that we began with and later tossed, was the idea to only use images as instructions. That is because a poll between us suggested that we all work better with step-by-step instructions as opposed to making guesses based on pictures.

Although this was a very peculiar project for me at first, I came to realize that it was very effective for me in identifying how I work. This project became the stepping stone for every project after simply because it forced me to think beyond what is infront of me and to really go in depth when asking myself “can someone else build from my documents identically?” This problem in particular was more of a gimmick at first because we had no actual deadlines for deliverables so it was hard to take seriously until testing stages commenced.

Ultimately the PP&J project showed me to pay careful and close attention to everything entirely and not just certain aspects and not to assume. Also it proved that testing is vital to any approach so that you have data to present and advocate your ideas. This project can be directly related to other job scenarios because when providing construction drawings for anything it is a necessity not to overlook any one thing and make sure that it is legible enough that almost anyone can do it. Things that I took away from this problem were planning and details. Although our communication was very well with each other, we did not have any actuals plans or calendars to work through the problem. We saw no timeline and let the idea of the project simplicity consume us. That being said, I plan to set deadlines and create calendars to help track my work and plan accordingly.