

CMPS115 – Project Reflection Essay – worth 6% of grade

I hope the software your team created this quarter has resulted in an executable for a system for which you and your team is proud. Even if this is not the case, I hope this quarter was a positive learning experience because one goal of this project is for you to learn about the software engineering development process through experience.

For your final essay, you should reflect on and write about what you learned about the software engineering development process during this team project. It is important to include in this essay your experiences as either a ‘product owner’ or ‘scrum master’.

Possible topics to consider include

- A discussion of the overall process. . Include here whether your use of Scrum worked well or not? Include specifics such as deliverables, meetings, and tool use.
- A discussion of how well the various workflows worked, particularly in retrospect. Include here a discussion of requirements and analysis using user stories, tasks, planning poker; design using UML; implementation using the language and other software tools; and test including any tools you used for this such as Junit.
- A discussion of what facilitated good teamwork and communication. Include here issues such as the use of email, google docs, Gforge, Subversion, Scrums, and other ways your team devised to communicate and collaborate.
- A discussion of how your team managed differences of opinion.
- A discussion of the benefits and limitations of collaborative decision-making.
- A discussion of the distribution of workload and motivation.
- A discussion of risk management and scheduling issues. Here you can discuss discrepancies between estimates and actual using your burnup charts as reference. Additionally, you can discuss how you dealt with knowledge gaps in what your team members possessed at the beginning of the quarter and what you determined you needed in order to be successful with your project.

These are just suggestions - if you feel the most important lessons you learned were on other topics, that's fine too. You may want to include points from your team's sprint reports. These reports were reflections on what worked and what didn't and ideas for improvement. Perhaps some ideas for improvement didn't materialize and you have hypothesized why. Include those ideas here.

A good write-up that clearly and concisely expresses your ideas should be close to 1000 words (about 3 pages double spaced). Essays that are significantly shorter or that contain waffling or rambling prose probably indicate a lack of adequate reflection or learning on your part.

The essay should be submitted via the assignments resource in a standard format. I prefer to receive files in .pdf format. This essay is worth 6% of your total grade.