

Revisit Team Contract

Introduction

You have submitted a Midterm Report and now the Final Project phase of this course is beginning. By this point in the semester, you will know your teammates well. You can also assess the successes and failures of your team contract and/or the ability and willingness of the teammates to live up to them. This is your opportunity to revisit your team contract. To assist you, we have highlighted the most common challenges reported by students so far regarding the current status of the team operation. If you recall Tuckman's Stages of Team Formation, you will be glad to hear that many report their teams are past "forming," "storming," and "norming" stages and are in the "performing" stage. Yet, it's not a perfect world. Even teams that have met some success can encounter challenges that revert them to a bit of a storm! Revisiting the team contract now is a good plan.

Team Learning Objectives

As a team, provide...

- An honest assessment of the team's successes and challenges.
- A revised team contract that highlights the necessary changes to approach and complete the final project with clarity of expectations for all teammates.

Procedure

Have your original team contract available for editing. Consider this list of the most-mentioned challenges in the current teamwork.

- We need better communication: a better tool and/or rules for how soon everyone should respond.
- We need a regular meeting to occur right after completing the in-lab exercises.
- We need more equity in the workload of all teammates.
- We need to stop rushing to complete the assignment and spend more time understanding it.
- We need better pre-lab prep to be more efficient in lab.

As a team, read each of the challenges above and respond with thoughts. Without calling out any individuals, comment on how strongly you feel each applies to *your* team. If appropriate, propose a solution to the problem and

draft a change to your original contract to address it. Sometimes, that draft may include a penalty for failure to comply. That penalty, with approval from your TAs, can include a reduction in grade on all or part of the final project grade.

As you re-write your contract, clearly specify additions and deletions from your contract.

Finally, at the end of your contract, include suggestions to the TAs:

To the TAs...

Our team would like to commend you on your ability and willingness to provide us with...

Example blurbs

- provide technical insight to the tasks we encounter.
- visit each team regularly.

Our team would like to encourage you to...

Example blurbs

- promote an atmosphere of collaboration, not only within a team, but across teams.
- encourage each team and continue to help each student overcome their deficiencies.

Submit your new contract on GradeScope (using the new assignment for this purpose). If no changes have been made, you may note this at the top of your original contract.