

Anti-Teamwork Skills

Get other people to do your work!



Chapter Overview

- Advantages/Disadvantages
- Types of Teams
- Team Member Roles
- Guidelines for Excessive Delegation

Advantages of Teamwork

➤ Synergy

- Occurs when the group's total output exceeds the sum of each individual's contribution
- See “Voodoo Teamwork” in textbook index

➤ You can delegate massive amounts of work to other people (See upcoming slides)

➤ Easier to shift blame around when you screw up

Disadvantages of Teamwork

- Time is wasted either:
 - Chatting, or
 - Fighting
- You might get stuck in a stupid group
- Your car gets keyed if you ruin the project and get your group a crappy mark
 - Especially if you spent most of your group time playing games or using MSN

Types of Teams

- Synergetic Cross Managing Team
 - A team that produces tremendous output, forcing all of it's members to work their collective brains out
- Dynamic Self-Managerial Corporate-Focus Interstructural Coordinative Team
 - A team consisting of five or more idiotic, overused buzzwords
- Virtual Team
 - A team that, thanks to it's own dysfunctionality, ceases to exist


Team Member Roles

- Browner – The guy that kisses up to the teacher all the time, but you have to leave him alone because you need his help
- Collaborator – The guy that claims to have the overall group vision, even though he sits on his butt doing nothing all day
- Introvert – The guy that adds nothing to group discussions and would much rather be somewhere else

Other Team Member Roles

- Listener – See “Introvert”
- Challenger – The guy that gets fed up with the browner and feeds him his notes
- Mediator – The guy that tries to console the browner and get him working again
- Emperor – The unspoken leader of the group that everyone follows to victory, or possibly oblivion

Guidelines for Excessive Delegation

- First off, you must try to be the Emperor of the group
 - Immediately delegate half of the project to the Browner, or more if you can get away with it
 - Of course, you need to make sure that you're the one dishing out the work assignments for everyone
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Guidelines for Excessive Delegation, Continued

- Do NOT give yourself a vague assignment that you can weasel out of
 - Group members will see through this ploy easily
 - They're probably expecting you to do that, anyways
- Instead, give yourself the biggest remaining part and give them the tiny little remnants of unassigned work

Guidelines for Excessive Delegation

- Now, for every part of your assignment, ask a random group member politely and graciously for their “input”
 - Essentially, you are asking that they answer the question for you - but they won't know that
 - They'll be so grateful for your giving them a tiny assignment that they won't mind helping you with yours
- Try not to ask the same member twice in a row
- If your group members start getting suspicious, give the rest of it to the browner
 - If he refuses, feed him his notes and blame your failure on him
 - Then you can all go and key his car

Chapter Summary

- Never forget what you've learned in this chapter!
- These skills are fully transferable from college to the workplace
- If you use them wisely, you can avoid doing a great deal of hard work
- This is how Scott Adam's "Wally" handles business