

## Group problems during semester 3

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This semester, our group had a lot of ups and downs—more downs than I would’ve liked, to be honest. From the start, we had some tension, and while we didn’t completely fix everything, we did learn how to work together well enough to finish (most of) the project. In the end, our stakeholders were really happy with what we made, which I’m proud of.

## Early group tensions

In the first few weeks, especially during the branding phase, things got tense. One person in the group had a working style that didn’t really click with the rest of us. It felt like everything we did needed to go through their feedback, even if it was something we’d already agreed on or split up. That slowed things down and made it harder to just get things done.

We talked about it and tried to sort things out. That person explained they wanted strong work for their portfolio, which I totally get. But having every little thing debated by the whole group made it hard to move forward. They also felt like we weren’t taking the project seriously enough because we were having fun and joking around. I guess we had different ideas of what a good working environment looks like.

## Settling this issue

To deal with the tension, we wrote a team charter where we all agreed on how we’d work together. Even the group member who wasn’t there for the first draft read it and gave the okay. We decided that people could work more independently, but we’d still all agree on the final product. It made things go smoother—at least for a while.

## Reflection

I think we were maybe too harsh. The group member we had issues with is quite sensitive, and I imagine it felt like the rest of us were ganging up on them. That’s not how I wanted things to go. I’ve always liked working in a chill, friendly group where we can still get things done. I wanted there to be room for some fun, not just strict work all the time. That person said early on they weren’t there to make friends, so I tried to keep that in mind. I still like that work style, but I’ve learned I need to read the room better next time.

## Second big issue, communication within the group

Communication was a major struggle throughout the semester. We mostly used WhatsApp, which got messy. Long message threads, decisions made late at night—I'd stop checking messages after 6 or 8pm because I needed my own time to relax or do other things. That meant I'd sometimes miss things, which added to the confusion.

One group member also had a tough time with punctuality and reliability. They were often late, missed meetings, or didn't finish tasks. It got to the point where we didn't really trust them to do anything that needed follow-through, so we gave them small, background tasks just to be safe.

## Resolving the issue

In week 12 (I think), we had a talk with our coach to go over the issues. Looking back, it felt like we were ganging up on that unreliable group member, which wasn't professional or a good way to handle it, even if we were frustrated. We just wanted to get some answers and fix the situation, not make them feel attacked.

Our coach recommended using Notion to organize things better. It was actually a really good idea. Notion helped us clearly plan out tasks, divide the work, and keep track of progress. We stuck with it for the rest of the semester, and it helped a lot.

## Reflection

I think the switch to Notion worked really well for us. It's a great tool and super easy to use. We actually stuck with it consistently throughout the project—not just for planning but also during the actual building phase. Looking back, I do think we could've handled things with that one group member a bit more professionally. We didn't mean to come off as intimidating—we were just frustrated and wanted to understand why they kept showing up late. Next time, I'll try to approach situations like that more calmly and with more empathy.

## Final reflection

This semester was a lot. I didn't enjoy this group project as much as I'd hoped—mainly because of all the drama and tension. I wanted to just get along, work seriously, and have a bit of fun too. I know every group has issues, and that's normal, but this one felt heavier than it should've.

Going forward, I'll still aim for that friendly but productive vibe, but I'll be more careful at the start. I'll take more time to figure out how people work and adjust as needed. Hopefully that makes things smoother next time around.

*This entire text was rewritten by chatgpt to make all members anonymous and to improve the wording, grammar and structure.*