The focus in all sessions of the program is to engage the students in active learning. Last week each of the Solution Finding sessions participated in a team-building activity as an introduction to the semester. The students will be working in teams throughout the design process. Productive, engaged verbalisation is essential to peer-based learning. This particular activity involved working together to accomplish a task in a given time. All students reflected on their participation in this teamwork setting. Some students found it more difficult than others but it was uplifting to read their responses identifying the importance of developing skills in cooperation, sharing and negotiation.

I would like to share with you one of many reflections that were so wonderfully insightful. This reflection was written independently and demonstrates critical thinking.

Teamwork may cause an element of frustration. My team got frustrated a few times but we got over it. We were all frustrated in every round but we worked well together. If someone got frustrated, we helped them by calming them down.

Teamwork is important for us to learn. We found that if you got the cup in the rubber band, you would need to pull together and put it down together.

Members of a team can come up with an idea for the group. We came up with a great strategy by not putting any power and just lifting the rope. After the cup is in the rubber band, we pull and stack it.

Teamwork is not always easy for me. When I am desperate to win, I always struggle and I get lost. That is why I need to use teamwork. However, when I am struggling, so is everyone else.

Certain skills are necessary to be good at teamwork. The skills are never to be stressed or frustrated or everyone else in your team will be too. Always stay calm and work with your team or you’ll get lost.

Teamwork can be very hard at times. If one person makes a mistake or gets stressed, everyone else will too. That is why you should always stay calm in a team.

Each person contributes to the team. We all contributed but sometimes we are nervous and we make a mistake. We must contribute together so then we can win together.

On reflection, we can act differently if given a second go. If my team had a second go we would be a lot calmer because we have done it before. We would have to improve our teamwork though.

Aiden K 5W

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