

WP3 REFLECTION

Our WP3 Project is about making changes in our school community. Our group, changemakers, chose our group name to be deeply rooted to this project's purpose; to make small changes that will have a big impact for the university community . And so, we wanted to spearhead those changes in our campus.

We initially had 3 issues to choose from. Those were: (1) Dorm Clutters, (2) Bad smell within the campus, (3) Parking. We thought that the dorm clutters were relevant, as most of the groups' members live in dorms and half of the members live in Neptune where they experience the clutter first hand. Moreover, it is easy to provide a possible solution as students.

After deciding on what issue to solve, we started planning on how we are going to collect our data. We all agreed on doing an interview and providing visual evidence to present. We made a structured interview question list consisting of 10 questions generally about the clutter seen in the dorms, if it affects their comfort of living, life as a student, and asking them what possible solution they can think of to solve this issue.

Our proposed solution to this problem is to collect the insights of the students about the clutter found in their dorms and analyze the responses, which we can raise to the RA's (Resident Advisors) and/or CA's (Community Advisors) who manages each floors, so they could raise this issue to the management of the dorms or to those members of the administrative team who makes rules or policies for on-campus residences at Northern Illinois University.

We initially only planned to have Neptune as the focus of our research, but our professor suggested we include our other member's dorm, Grant Towers. So with that, we divided the interviewing process into two groups: 2 members interviewed people in Neptune, Elijah and Lex and 2 in Grant Towers, Yarely and I. We had a couple of days to work on it, which was beneficial for us to find participants who were willing to answer our questions. Personally, I thought it would be a struggle for me to find people who live in Grant Towers, because I don't live on campus and I barely know anyone at NIU. But luckily, I was able to find participants and I was the one who finished interviewing first in our group. It made me feel slightly relieved, as I thought that finding participants was the most challenging part of the project.

But honestly, the hardest part of the project for me was working with my group. I am not sure if it was because I had an easy time with my past members for the past project (WP2), so I became complacent that this new one would be the same. But unfortunately, I was wrong. Constructively, my other members showed no interest in being proactive with the project and did not actively engage in providing ideas, comments, and suggestions for the project. It was like they were only doing what they were told or assigned and not giving feedback nor ideas on how to make the task better. Communication was a bit of a struggle, which I had no problem with in my previous group. I deeply understand and acknowledge that different people have different attitudes and approaches, but constructively speaking, effort was a bit lacking for my co-members. Nevertheless, I am still thankful for them for participating and helping each other to finish this task.

The project is not overly hard and is very insightful, especially to relevant issues, such as the abundance of clutter found in some dorms. These issues can definitely affect the students' comfort in living on campus and can be a total eyesore, which can possibly affect their headspaces. I would say we can conclude that clutter is greatly seen in Neptune as it has testimonies from different people who live there. On the other hand, Grant is the opposite. Clutter is not seen in the halls, doorways of their rooms. This project gives us an idea on how students like us, who are not part of governing bodies, can contribute in small ways in making big changes for the campus.