Team Members:

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The purpose of the collaborative work done by my team was to create a wiki to use for team building exercises that could help prevent bullying in the K-12 classroom.

My role in the project was to find and link resources that would be helpful in the elementary classroom.  The wiki had pages for elementary, middle school, and high school students.  I was assigned elementary since I am an elementary teacher. Bullying and the need for team building covers all ages and our group had a representative for each level.  I also was able to help out by finding links to a video for our wiki and worked on coming up with a high school scenario for our scenario page.

The collaborative process started with the team contract being created by team members throwing out ideas through brainstorming on the discussion board. Ideas from the team contract in unit one were discussed. Using different online spaces such as wiki and google were brought up as useful places to house our resources.  Also the amount of time to meet deadlines and expectations including ways to reach each other were all brought up.  All of the members seemed to be active with technology and easy to reach.  They also were easy to work with.  One member brought up the contract and another member typed it up and submitted it.   I think that it is a good idea to discuss the expectations and parameters of a project with group members.  I think that a contract can be very useful to open the dialogue of meeting a deadline.  Although our group was very easy to work with, I can see a point where if a contract was not in place, a deadline might not be met because someone might not do their fair share of the assigned task or understand the expectations.

I communicated with my team members through our group discussion board, on wiki, and also with messages on google.  When I found helpful links that I thought might help in a different area of our project, I shared them with the group.  I also asked for confirmation from my team mates to make sure that I was on the same path as they were in the project.  I tried to remember to be thankful for all of their work.  I know that all of us have other lives and positions in our everyday life, and I did not want that taken for granted, so I tried to remember to thank them.

The online environment my team chose for creating our collaborative work was wiki, and we also used Google for some of our documents. I had not really ever used wiki that much, but I found that I really liked it for collaboration.  It was also very easy to add forms and links to the pages.  I also liked the way that I could send messages to the team and they could send messages as we updated pages.

I think that using a wiki would be great for my students.  The links are very easy to follow and adding information to the pages is very user friendly. I could see it being used where a group might investigate/research a certain topic like choosing and animal to study and then dedicating a page to each subtopic like the habitat, predators/prey, life cycle, and traits of the animal.

The process of putting this wiki together was very helpful for me.  I am now much more comfortable with using a wiki, and I see it as a beneficial resource that I could use with my students.  I also enjoyed collaborating with my group, and I know that the resources that we have on our site will be very useful for me to utilize in my classroom.