Final Analysis

1. As a member of the health group, I was happy to fund the organization we ended up giving the $1,000 to. Although they were the only ones to apply for the grant, their application was thorough and impressive, but the interview was what really sold me. I did not personally interview them but watching the recording of it and hearing their outstanding dedication to what they were doing was great. They had a direct and clear plan of what exactly they would use the money for. They answered all questions openly and honestly. Although their mission didn’t exactly go with what we had planned for originally, (being an organization that would directly help students on campus with mental health), they proved themselves to be worthy of the money and I am excited to see them progress as a company.

I would’ve liked to emphasize more in group discussion that compromise is important in order to reach a goal with a team. Also, being flexible is important, especially under the online circumstances we were under.

1. A few things that we learned about last semester that I feel I have been able to use this semester are emotional intelligence, teamwork, and negotiation.

Towards the beginning of the semester we learned about emotional intelligence and how it plays a role in how to be an effective leader. This plays a role in what we did this semester because as we would work as a team you need to have the skills of self-regulation, empathy, and social skills. These things help you express your feelings/thoughts appropriately as well as communicating with others and understanding their viewpoints.

For the teamwork concept, I liked when we did the Six Thinking Hats test to better understand how I work in a team as well as how my classmates work in a team. I feel like this has really made an impact all year and in the group during the last few months we know how we can best contribute to the group when we would work as a team to come to any decisions in the grant process.

Lastly, our skills learned involving negotiation were also useful in the grant process because they taught us essential things like separating the people from the argument/ discussion, the importance of perception, and how to communicate effectively to make sure everyone’s ideas are both heard and respected. I feel like we utilized these skills and it made decision-making a lot smoother and more comfortable.

1. Many concepts I learned in my communications class last semester were similar to the skills we learned in the public leadership program. I had many speeches in that class and combined with PLCY201, I learned how to be a better public speaker, specifically through learning confidence and learning how to understand my audience. Also, we had a group project where we focused on learning how to effectively communicate with one another and distribute the workload equally to each team member. I used these skills this semester when we split into different functional groups within the health group to things like writing, evaluation, and outreach teams. This gave everyone a chance to contribute in a way that best fit their strengths.
2. I learned a variety of leadership skills throughout freshman year. I learned the importance of listening to other’s ideas, being empathetic, and considering all ideas from different perspectives. I learned this skill by constantly working in groups in the PLCY class and CPPL and seeing that people have a variety of viewpoints and it can be very beneficial to learn from if you listen with an open mind. I also got a lot more comfortable with speaking in front of others. With all the presentations and speeches from PLCY, CPPL, and my COMM class. These classes have taught me skills to speak publicly better as well as doing it often has made me become more comfortable with it.
3. I thought the division into the different groups (health, violence, environment, etc.) was good and felt like everyone got a group that they were at least somewhat passionate about. Also, the second division into the separate task groups (writing, evaluation, outreach, etc.) helped equally divide the workload so that people are doing what they are good at and everyone is held responsible for their part. Also, I feel like everyone did their part and did it promptly, we weren’t waiting for any one group to do their task, which made the process run smoothly.
4. I think the organization and communication within the group could have been improved. We had a google doc folder with all the information from Mikey, but we also had another folder that health and many other random folders. Basically, the documents were not very organized, and it caused confusion. A lot of times people would put something in the google doc folder and many others wouldn’t be able to find it. So, with a more accessible and organized place to store documents would work much better. Also, I feel like especially at the end when we were trying to reach a final decision whether to fund vitalize or not, we did voting on the group me and discussions on zoom but in both we had trouble getting everyone to respond so the decision of yes or no took a lot more time than it should have. I’m not sure what would’ve been the best way to solve this but hopefully next year the course will be in person and wouldn’t have this problem.