

Engineering 408 allowed me to discover my personality and my work style. I believe that a successful person must understand who he is and what he stands for. In this class, we experienced different ways to really understand our personality. For example, the personality assessment we had at the beginning of the year. We used sites like kiersey, which develops questions for you to answer and then it categorizes your personality with a brief explanation. It helped a lot to use more than one different site to compare the differences and the similarities. Although I disregarded some facts of the assessment because I thought they were not true, I deeply thought of the relativity of the real me and what is suggested to describe my personality. It made me question some of my characteristics and discover my true personality. Another exercise that helped me the most to understand my personality and work style is the Thomas-Kilmann conflict mode instrument exercise. We worked in groups with similar personality. I benefitted a lot from this exercise because it allowed me to understand my self by seeing my personality in another person. Although our group had conflicts, we worked to succeed.

Leadership was covered in a large scope of the class. We discussed leaders mistakes and how would we act differently if we were in their shoes. A leader is positioned to bring the best of his followers. His duty is also to implement his values and ethics in the organization. This class made me realize that even small decisions could turn a situation to chaos. For instance, the smoke jumpers story, which I will never forget and will help me to always bring the best out of my self and support people. We also discussed the meaning of ethics and integrity and how to avoid them. I think that

many people may fall into the trap of ethics because they either were not aware of it or they thought it is a one time thing. However, our discussions in this topic helped to clarify the real meaning behind ethics and integrity. I also learned that ethics is not only the law of a country or era, but also the law of nature and the effects of our decisions on human life.

I always question my self and decisions so that I would be able to recover mistakes and avoid them in the future. It is a great characteristic to perform your work, but it slows your progress and show lack of personality. I believe that my main problem is the fear of failure. I fear to stumble to reach perfection, which is an invalid statement. I also take time to understand my environment and the people I am working with. However, I would like to develop my process of understanding my environment to blend in faster and preform better work. I also think that I am inexperienced in leadership, and, in my opinion lectures and stories about leadership are not enough, even if you are born with a leadership personality. In the future, I plan to be mentored by an experienced leader, which in my opinion is the best approach to achieve leadership characteristics.