

Sustainable Design Project Reflection:

1. HOHAM or 21st century skill I grew in most:

In this project, the 21st century skill I grew the most in was collaboration. The whole project took lots of collaboration within our group, but I feel like the two most important times I most successfully collaborated was, first, when we were ideating and planning out our project design. I had to be able to adapt and collaborate in order to be in harmony and come to a final decision on what my group wanted. Another time when I collaborated was when we were in project work time. There was almost always something to get done, and we were on a tight time schedule, so being able to assign jobs to people and knowing that it was gonna get done was an essential part of being able to succeed in our project, and I feel like we were able to do that.

2. HOHAM or 21st century skill that I still need to grow in:

The 21st century skill that I still need to grow in in order to become the best project based learner possible is independent research. During the project, there were many times where I could have sat down and used time to dive deeper in research. For example, I could have look more at the water laws, what I could do to be able to have a good water system for our plants, how to create a more comfortable sitting area using recycled resources, etc. You can never do to much research, and I have been working on improving this skill throughout the year. It's not just doing research but being able to find credible and helpful websites, not ones that are either false in information or not very helpful.

3. A time when I had a hard time and solved it:

One of the hardest setbacks during this project was getting the brackets. They came much later than we expected them to, so the actual project building time ended before we even got the brackets which meant we weren't able to build the dome on time. This was definity hard on us because towards the end of the project I noticed that some of my group mates and I started to slack off and waste time we could have been using to build or help out with more preparation. The solution we have come up with in order to be able to finish building our geodesic dome is, working on it on the day of our TPOL's and most likely coming in a couple of extra days during that week.

4. A time when I had a problem I wasn't able to solve:

A time when my group had a problem we weren't able to solve was when we were trying to figure out a water system for the plants inside our geo dome. Our first idea was to take water from the creek, but then it was brought to our attention that that was probably illegal, so then me and 3 other people got together to talk through different solutions. Our final decision was to not plant anything this year due to the summer coming up in a couple of weeks, and we used that as an excuse to not come up with a plan or system and put it off until next year. We could have used some of our extra time to research different things we could do. For example, how we could use the extra wasted water from the water fountains and sinks for the plants. Putting it off until next year didn't solve the problem of not having a water system to make sure our plants get watered.

5. Success at the beginning of the project vs. now

At the beginning of this project our ideal project success looked like a finished and refined looking geodesic dome. We wanted a well structured dome with a good cover, a beautiful garden inside with a reliable watering system, as well as some comfy hangout spots. As we all know, things don't always go to plan, so a couple of things have changed since then. We got the brackets in late and so we had a lot less time to build the structure than we had hoped. We also aren't gonna have a finished inside this school year because no one is able to take care of the plants inside and make sure they stay alive through the summer. Which plays into not having a water system, we had a couple of ideas but they all fell through, so we put it off until next year. A lot of things didn't go to plan, but I feel like with the time limit we had and all the setbacks we did a pretty good job.

6. Advice I would give another student who was about to begin this project:

If I were to give advice to a student who was going to do this project, I would tell them to set a reasonable goal that they believe they can reach. I feel it is very important to learn from your own personal mistakes and challenges, but having as minimal problems as possible is always nice. Not setting a goal that is too big is important, I find that when I do that I get very stressed which then leads to doing less work. But at the same time, setting too small of a goal is never good. You should be able to put all you can into a project and show what you can do. But when you set too small of a goal for yourself you aren't able to show your full potential. That's why I think being able to recognize your abilities and maybe even pushing yourself a little is a key thing in this type of project.