

Project

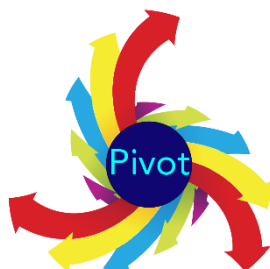
Utopia

Our Project Utopia was based on the book we were studying in English, *The Giver* (Lois Lowry). *The Giver* portrayed a 'perfect world,' a utopia, and that was what inspired the idea for Project Utopia. Our job was to redesign Fremantle port into a community where all people could thrive.

The first thing on our list was to complete rapid research on all the Global Goals to improve our knowledge on how to create a sustainable community. The UN Global Goals for Sustainable development are designed to make peace in the world. We used this knowledge for the next part, to define and ideate a new community, also using the livability factors to determine what makes a sustainable community.



I had to make some hard decisions during the making of the project. My group chose to focus on transport, and I wanted nothing to do with it. I went with plants, and that was the first step to disaster. A few weeks later, none of us had done much work, and arguments and grudges were flitting around the group every minute. I didn't know what to do. My own stubbornness was preventing me from making the right decisions.



A few weeks later, my group and I had a serious talk with the teacher. I admitted that I was wrong, and we found a way to fit me into the transport idea. My group found a spot for me in the transport idea, and I began, anew, with the topic of electric scooters to transport people all around the port area. I learnt sometimes, you have to give up something that you want to do for something that you need to do.

But the problems weren't over yet.

We were far from finished, and it was week 6 already. The presentation was only three weeks away, and we had done, project-wise, nearly nothing. Though, with our arguments settled, and our doubts satisfied, we worked five times faster than ever before. We counselled each other on our ideas and suggested new ways of thinking.



The making of the vision board was a difficult one, but we managed. By listening to each idea, and agreeing to most. I, and maybe the whole group, learnt that no one idea is superior to the rest, and no one person is always right. I myself came up with the idea of literally popping out some of the text on the board, and another group member thought of adding long, thin, pictures to fill the gaps in the board.

When it finally came for the presentation day, no one felt ready. I saw, through different eyes, our vision board, looking horrible, clustered, peeling, and overall, just plain bad. But putting that aside, I knew we couldn't do anything about it, so I tried my best.



What happened at the presentation felt like a failure. My group had about six or seven people come to listen to our presentation, and that was about half as much as everyone else. I learnt that people tend to be attracted to bigger, more interesting things than detailed, small images or words.

I learnt much from the project, and not all of it I know is going to be useful. On the advertising and media fact, I learnt that much detail is not always necessary. I already knew that, but I was still setting my sights far from the mark. I also learnt a lot about group work and I'm sure all of this will be a big help for the future.

