Group 9
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Project 1 Organization Evaluation and Plan

The organization of the team nominally worked as it should have. However, there were many difficulties associated with adjusting to a new class and to working with people who were complete strangers before. Subtle but important details were missed in the project requirements. For example, it was required that the Organization Evaluation and Plan document represent a consensus of the group members but the requirement went unnoticed until it was to late to arrange a collaboration[1]. Further, it was discovered that the group members had vastly differing conceptions of how group work was to be carried out. Vague messages assumed to be understood in context and schedules that were less compatible than they appeared on paper made meetings between the team members confusing and inconvenient.

If provided with the chance to redo the project, some aspects went well and would not be changed. The thinking behind the basic organization of the group is sound, and since each member will move to duties that more closely align with their strengths in the future it will only work better and would be the superior choice in terms of preparing for later projects. The encapsulation of tasks was designed to minimize the need for group meetings and in hindsight proved vital if the group was to present a finished product at all.

On the other hand, several things would be done differently if the project were to happen again. Josh is of the opinion that a different group organization would have resulted in a more successful robot. Either way, there was ample time and there should have been more attempts to change the hardware to make it more capable rather than placing the burden on the coder to compensate for its shortcomings. In addition, One of the CS majors should have overseen Jangho early in his work and taught him to document the software more thoroughly. The documentation was sufficient but only barely so. Also, the writer for this project was under the impression that he was responsible for analyzing the code and the hardware and deriving the documentation of each himself. Since each of the other group members wrote detailed documents themselves, the writer was greatly confused as to his actual duties. Finally, There should have been at least one meeting of the full team solely for the purpose of ironing out organizational details such as contact information, schedules, meeting locations, and workload distribution.

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[1] The writer for project 1, Troy Humphrey, will provide anecdotal commentary on the opinions of the other team members in order to comply with the requirement as much as possible. It should be noted that the accuracy of the commentary is limited by the author's interpretation of the opinions of the other group members.