

Alvin Kang

Period 5

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Robotics

JPL Reflections One Pager

After the events that took place in the JPL competition, I realized that there were a number of clear reasons that our group performed as badly as we did. Lack of time management, excessive pride, and a lot of built up tension all led to us effectively failing at the JPL preliminaries.

First of all, we were not using our time effectively at all. For example we spent over a month, almost half of our allotted time, to brainstorm, and were not, when we were testing our tennis ball launcher and our first prototype ball launcher, we had too many people working on it when one or two people would have sufficed. As a result, we constantly had people that were playing around and not on task due to a lack of things to do. Furthermore, when we were working on the

Also, when we were fabricating Hanz, excessive pride got in the way of efficient working, and led to an eventual critical failure during the competition. When we started to fabricate Hanz, multiple people wanted to lead, when there shouldn't really have been a leader. As a result, we got into an argument, and everyone left that day butthurt. Due to the tensions from that day, we had an error in our judgment, and made the most important and most frequently used piece, the part that holds the ball in place when the device is fired, out of really flimsy particleboard. As a result, while at the JPL Preliminaries, that specific part broke. If we had been calm and had been in the right state of mind, that mistake could have been avoided.

Through the course of the JPL Invention Challenge, I learned to think ahead about what materials should be used and what the parts' function will be. In addition, I learned that time management; before even thinking about how you will do something, plan a schedule for thinking about that thing. Also, make sure to get rid of stress so that you can think with a clear head.