

Group Project Reflection

This project taught me many valuable skills concerning working in a group, and thinking of an engineering idea. When one studies engineering, they often forget that they are actually building the world. I found myself getting caught up in trying to ace my classes, and memorize formulas, that I lost track of where engineering actually leads to in the real world - thinking of new ideas.

This project, and sitting in a group and brainstorming, allowed me to consider the engineered world around us. One of my teachers previously said, when we look around, **everything is engineered** except plants. And even then, we consider where to place plants! For this reason, the scope of engineering is very broad, and there are many facets to improve the world, and previous engineered projects.

One major life skill we learned from this project was working in groups. Often, in engineering classes, one does not work with his peers on problems or projects. By working in a team, we are able to hear each other's voices, and build off of one another's ideas. We were able to analyze our project from different perspectives that we maybe would not have considered if we each worked independently. We were able to see the strengths of some of our group members, and all of us use our strengths together to produce the best project possible.

Another benefit from this project was researching how previous engineers attempted to fix problems we still face. By building off of their knowledge, we can avoid repetitions of ideas that didn't work, or try ideas again with improvements. Our group specifically focused on the NYC subway, which in itself is a marvel. However, despite this, with the passage of time, and new technology, the subway does not hold up anymore.

We were able to research previous attempts at fixing the subway, examples of successful subways across the planet, and how we can improve ours. We learned about new technology, CBTC, and how it is used to manage train systems. We were able to think about the real world implications of our work, and how it can improve the lives of millions of new yorkers.