

Reflective Narrative

Product Engineering: Bench Design

- Task: To be placed in one of 3 randomly chosen groups of 4 - 5 people and design and fabricate a project, in this particular case, a bench for a local high school. The goal is to manage the project as if the finished items were to be produced in an industrial setting. The clients' requirements, conceptualization of the project that meets those requirements, prepare working drawings, bill of material, cut list, route and Gantt charts and schedule production time all had to be considered.
- Why: To see the amount of time that is required for the entire process. The importance of staying organized, being able to compromise within a group, hone communication skills and stick to deadlines.
- Learning Outcome: Working in groups has its advantages and disadvantages. The amount of time that goes into the pre-production of a piece of furniture requires a lot of time. When the project does not seem to be going anywhere, someone must step up and take the lead so deadlines can be met.
- Use of Knowledge in Career: By having the knowledge of what happens before the product is ready to be manufactured gives you a better understanding of the product. The knowledge of how to create these documents may give one an advantage over an equally skilled person who does not have this skill set.
- Problems Encountered: Group members missing time from school, which delayed the design process. Group members not meeting deadlines for individual assignments, which led to work not being divided evenly within the group. Other group members had to pick up the slack.
- Mistakes Made: Spent approximately two days designing first concept, only to have all of the drawings discarded.
- Difficult Part: Trying not to become frustrated / bossy with my group. My group had no direction in the beginning, so I stepped up and started dividing the work. I made every conscious effort to help my group members with their parts.
- Easiest Part: My group elected me to do the drawing because of my knowledge of AutoCAD. Even though the drawings took a long time to complete I found them of little to no trouble to complete.
- More Information: More documentation for the bench design project can be found in the work samples section.