

Reflection

As a writer, I participated in an engineering project aimed at combating the devastating effects of climate change. The project involved creating a smart thermostat proposal for the Forest Housing Project in Bronx, NY to reduce carbon emissions caused by overconsumption of energy from cooling and heating devices in cities like New York.

Working with a group of students from two different majors was a unique experience that pushed me to communicate more than I usually would on my ideas. Since mechanical engineers and computer scientists have different work methods, there was a communication barrier that we had to overcome by consistently talking with one another and explaining our ideas. This experience helped me develop and engage in the collaborative and social aspects of writing, particularly for an engineering proposal, which is a large document that requires a group of engineers to compile.

Our group created a proposal for a smart thermostat and used visual media by creating a website and a virtual presentation. The proposal was aimed at explaining the problem and how our group planned on solving it with the smart thermostat. We also laid out the specifics of the device and our plans for testing it, as well as our future plans for the thermostat. The audience for the proposal was Doreen M. Harris, Vlada Kenniff, and Lisa Bova - Hiatt, who were significant figures in fighting the climate crisis, particularly within New York City.

For me, the exigence of the proposal was the urgency to combat the climate crisis by using and endorsing energy conservativity. The use of cooling and heating devices within cities is a huge factor in the climate change crisis, and I believe that there should be more research into

devices such as the smart thermostat to help limit climate change. Although this solution will not fix the problem entirely, it is a step in the right direction and will still help in a small way.

The purpose of the proposal was to get permission to use the land of the Forest Housing Project to test our device. By outlining the problem, our solution, its benefits, and thoroughly detailing our plans, our group showed our audience our credibility and how our solution is worth their attention. Our stance was clearly against climate change and in favor of using the smart thermostat as a solution against it.

Overall, this engineering project provided me with an opportunity to collaborate with others to create a cohesive document that looks as if written by a single person. It also allowed me to contribute towards finding a solution to the climate crisis. While the solution proposed in the project may be small, every small step counts in the fight against climate change.