Reflection

This assignment was certainly interesting to work on. Working on an engineering project with a group that consisted of students within two majors was unfamiliar, pushing me to communicate more than I usually would on my ideas. Mechanical engineers and computer scientists have fairly different work, so there was definitely a communication barrier, but we worked to overcome that by consistently talking with one another and explaining our ideas. Two of the people within this group were new as well, so I saw this assignment perhaps as a final test on if group work would work for me in this class. This assignment helped me fulfill the fourth course outcome of developing and engaging in the collaborative and social aspects of writing. Specifically for an engineering proposal, which is a large document that could not be done by a single person and requires a group of engineers to compile, I learned how to collaborate with others to create a cohesive document that looks as if written by a single person.

My group created a proposal for a smart thermostat to be used within the Forest Housing Project in Bronx, NY. This was created as a response to climate change being worsened by cities such as New York City where the overconsumption of energy from cooling and heating devices contributed massively to carbon emissions. The genre we used is a proposal, explaining the problem and how we plan on solving it with our device. We then laid out the specifics of the device and our plans with testing it, as well as our plans for the future with our thermostat. We only used visual media, since we made a website and a virtual presentation. The audience of the proposal are Doreen M. Harris, Vlada Kenniff, and Lisa Bova - Hiatt. These individuals were picked due to their significance in fighting the climate crisis, particularly within New York City. Doreen M. Harris is the President and CEO of NYSERDA, and Vlada Kenniff and Lisa Bova - Hiatt are both highly ranked individuals within NYCHA, being the Interim CEO and Senior Vice

President of Sustainability respectively. These people can grant us access to the buildings within the Forest Housing Project, as well as other resources that would prove significant to the production of our device and its testing. The purpose of this proposal was to get permission to use the land of the Forest Housing Project so we can test our device. By outlining the problem, our solution, its benefits, and thoroughly detailing our plans, we are showing our audience our credibility and how our solution is worth their attention. Our stance is clearly against climate change and in favor of using our smart thermostat as a solution against it.

My exigence in this proposal is that I feel very strongly about the climate crisis and always work to use and endorse energy conservativity. The use of cooling and heating within cities is a huge factor of the climate change crisis and I feel that there should be more research into devices such as the thermostat in my engineering proposal so that we can help to 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.