



Project:
P.R.O.J.E.C.T.
4-45



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Project Work is a minefield, one that we have to traverse throughout school and work life. The word “minefield” is especially true for Sec 1s, strangers to Project Work. Here at Project P.R.O.J.E.C.T., we created original comics to teach Sec 1s of both technical hard skills as well as interpersonal soft skills, allowing them to navigate through Project Work easier, yet keeping the learning process fun and relatable. Let’s jump right into it!



Our Rationale

When Sec 1s are thrown into PW, many of them (and previously us) didn’t know the many skills needed to carry it out well. This all leads to avoidable problems and unhappiness. which may remain unresolved until Sec 4 or even their workplace. We want to set them on the right track from the get-go.

Our Objectives & Audience

With all this in mind, we hope to achieve two things. Firstly, we want to teach the Sec 1s the hard and soft skills they need to take on PW. And secondly, we want to make the process and fun as possible. Clearly, we are focusing on all incoming Sec 1s, but other levels will benefit too.

...And Our Product

As mentioned, the resource that we’ve created is a collection of comics that solve the various problems that the Sec 1 student may face (more on that later).



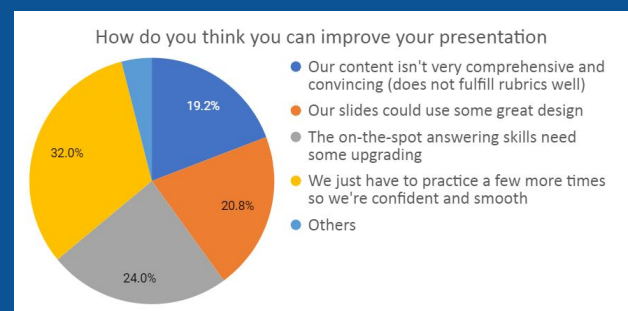
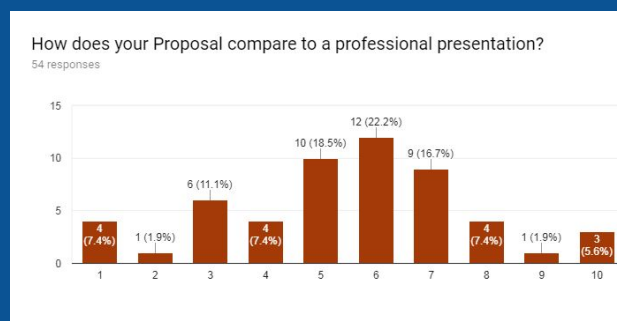
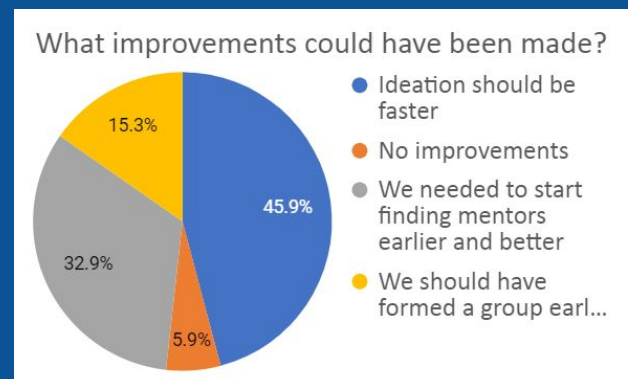
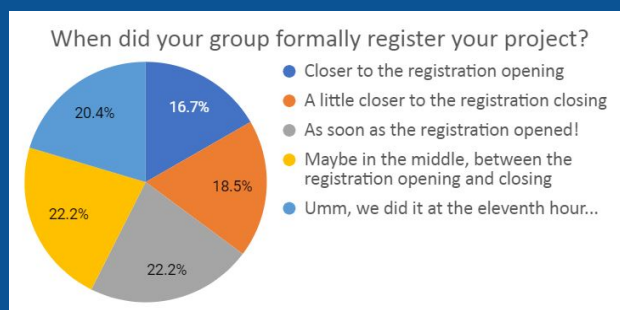
Literature and Resource Review

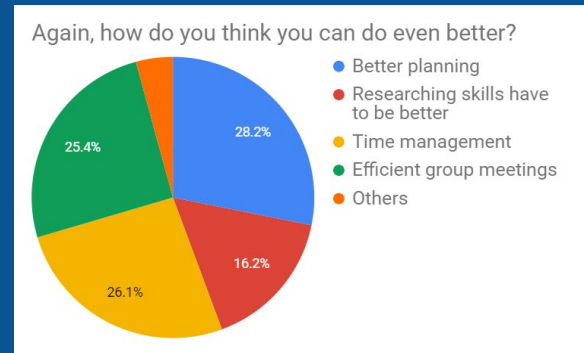
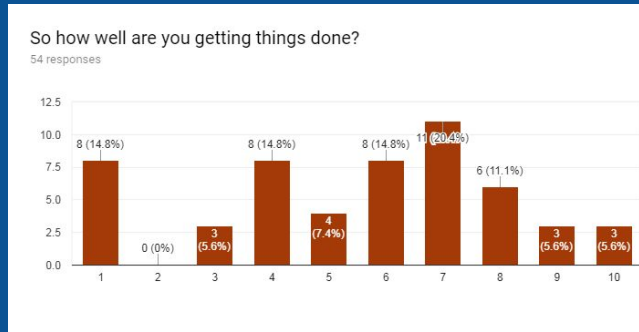
We first turned to the Official PW Google Site, where we only found rubrics, documents and videos. The Basic Sec 1 Research Module and PW Site covers the administrative matters well too, but does not offer much in soft skills. The Sec 1s also can't absorb the little information since it's so monotonous. We looked at Kong Chian Library too, with its catalogue showing us very topic-specific, content-based information on PW, with many being under Teacher's Reference. We won't have any Literature Reviews because PW is so specific to our school.

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Needs Analysis

Our Needs Analysis comes in the form of an online survey, which managed to collect 54 responses, 61% being Sec 1s and 39%, Sec 2s. Much more data will be down below.



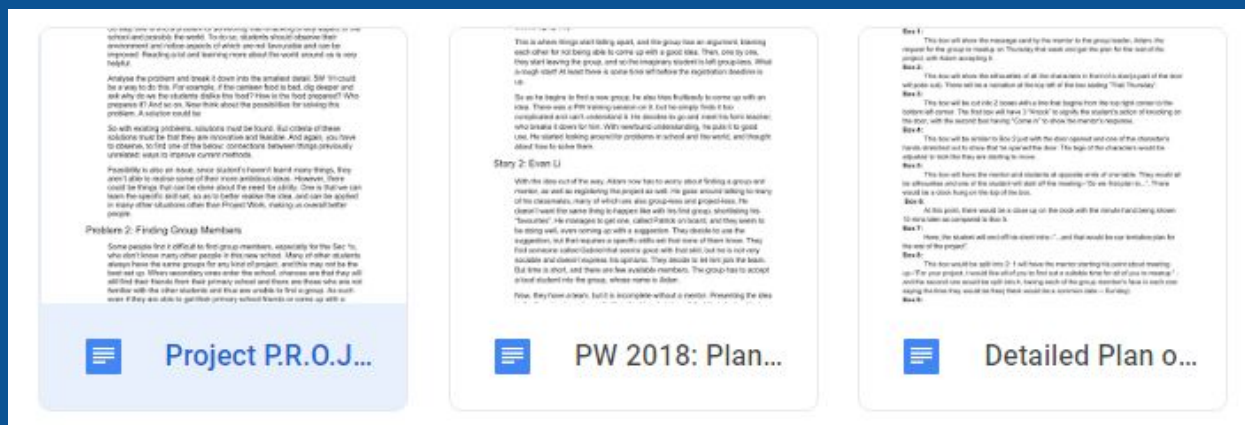


Here's brief summary of our results. When asked about how well the respondents feel they do in the various categories of problem (in the diagram below), they consistently say that they are average or below average in those aspects (graphs on the left). When asked to analyse why, they were in line with our hypothesis (graphs on right), However, they were unable to provide concrete solutions.

Our Process



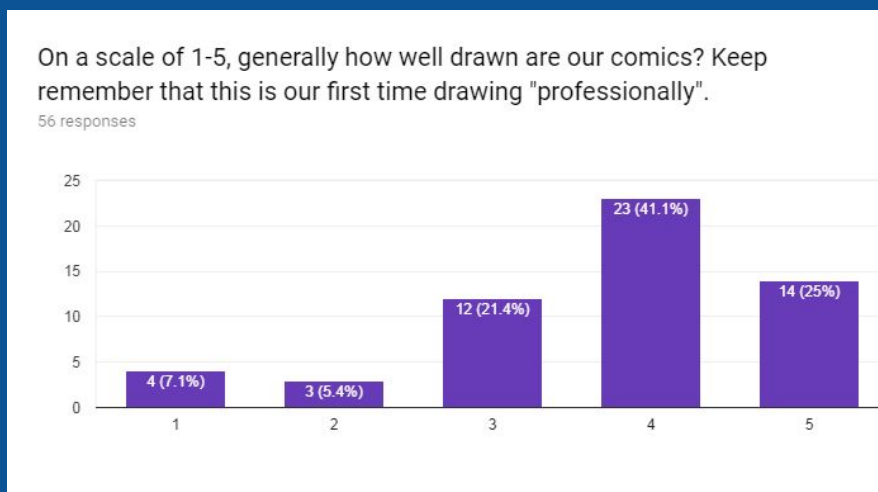
This is the rough framework of our project. Firstly, we divided PW into 4 categories, then into 10 problems, confirmed by our Needs Analysis. To solve these problems, we created our Project Outline (an 11 page document), where we would research for and explain in great detail our solutions. Then, we brainstormed for ideas that encompass the 10 problems and solutions, another document. Storyboarding was next, where stories were to be planned down to the individual box in the final document.



With our planning completed, the next step was the creation of our product. We used the software Krita to draw out our character templates and over the course of the next few months, we drew our comics from scratch.

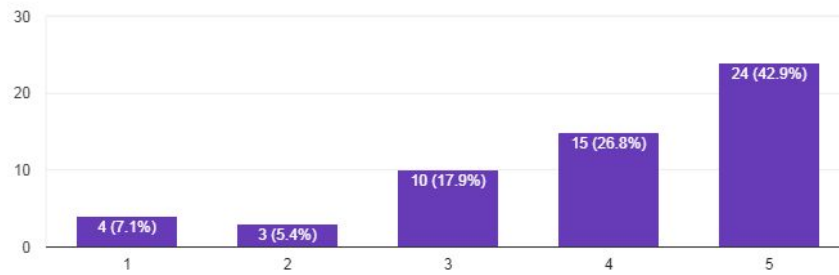
The Pilot Test

With our first draft completed, we needed to get some feedback. We managed to get 56 responses, and here are the numbers.



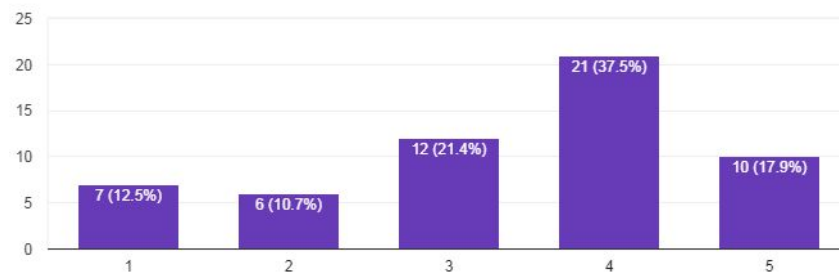
On a scale of 1-5, how easy is it to understand the story (flow of story...)?

56 responses



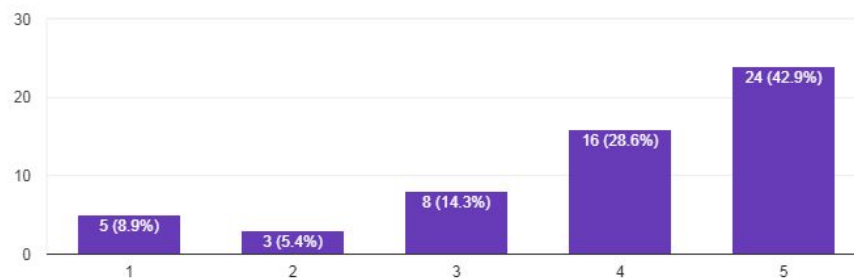
On a scale of 1-5, how interesting are the comics (funny, storyline...)?

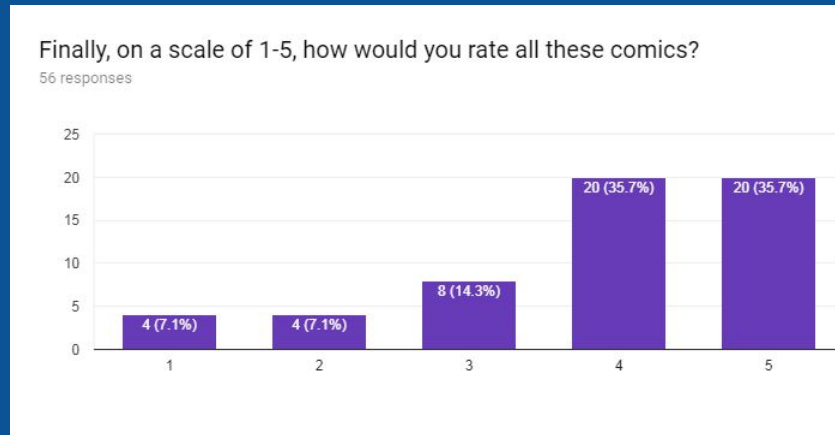
56 responses



Most importantly, on a scale of 1-5, how much did you learn from them?

56 responses



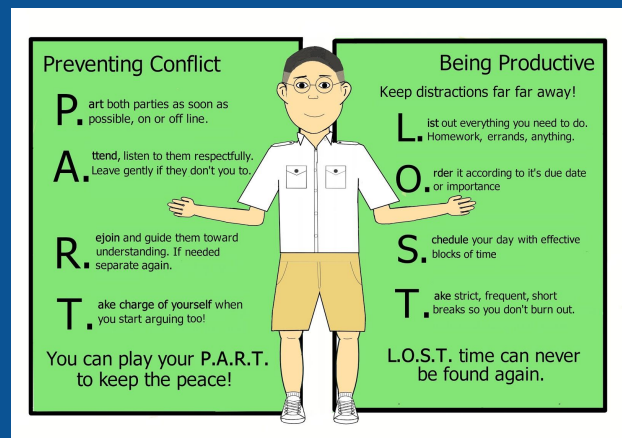
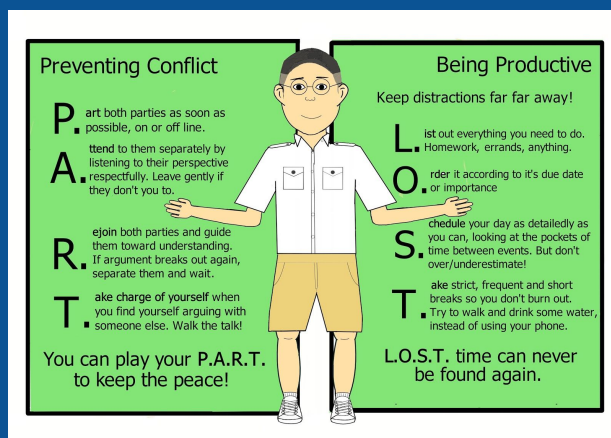


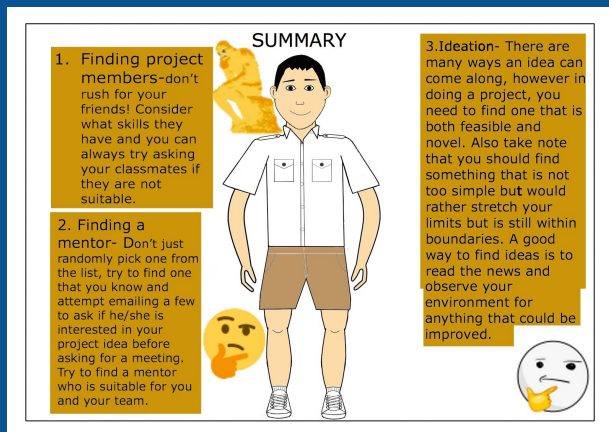
Generally, we have accomplished what we set out to do, with every section receiving great ratings. We also interviewed Dr Chia Kok Pin, the IS Coordinator, and he seemed quite satisfied with it too. However, both sources of feedback suggested larger and fewer words.

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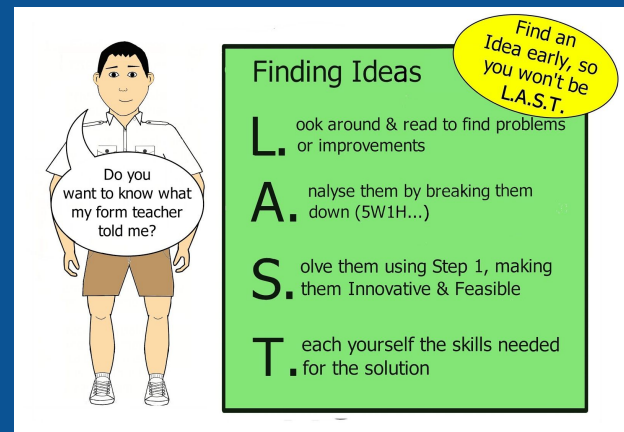
The Final Product

Our final product is a compilation of 6 chapters of comics, each covering a few problems that students will face. We have made improvement based on all the suggestions provided in the pilot test. (shown below).





(Before)



(After)

Looking forward...

Project P.R.O.J.E.C.T. has its limitations, and here are some. Firstly, this is the first time all of us had to draw digitally, so we were definitely inexperienced. Despite the product being satisfactory, it could have been much better.

Another aspect we didn't cover, suggested by the judges, was to cater to the different categories. If we included that, the scope would've been too large. We wanted to focus on the soft skills as it can help more people and be applied throughout their lives.

Finally, perhaps a smaller limitation is the unsatisfactory pool of responses for both our Needs Analysis and Pilot Test. Despite sending out the online surveys to all our contacts, and personally going to some classes to request for responses, many students were unwilling to help us fill them up.

Reflection

Most definitely, we learnt how to carry out a Project better (how can we not)! All the information and solutions in our comics had to be learnt by us first, and we will definitely use them well.

But among all that we learnt, we feel that planning for time was the most important. During the June Holidays, there was miscommunication and the detailed storyboarding was not finished by some members, resulting in the comics being completed later and a disappointing Mid-Term score. We feel that if there was a detailed scheme-of-work established from the start, this could have been avoided since every member understand the process and deadline, and could adjust his schedule accordingly. However, we caught up by working extremely hard after the Mid-Term, planning our time in great detail, eventually completing it on time.

Acknowledgements

Without a doubt, we are not the only ones responsible for the success of Project P.R.O.J.E.C.T., and we would like to express our gratitude for their help!

Firstly, Dr Chia Kok Pin, who gave us great ideas and kept us up to task throughout the project.

Next, those students that have helped us to fill up and forward both our surveys won't be forgotten! Their feedback was useful and played a big role in this project.

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