

Period 3 Lessons Learned

Experience Gained

Our team overall has learned about the design process, and how important effective troubleshooting is, else our robot would perform significantly slower. We also gained a lot of experience about coding, and in fact we taught one of our newer members how to program. We also learned that in the end, tasks are much more efficiently done when multiple people do it. Having multiple people to do one task ends very well, especially when it comes to tasks which require multiple opinions, such as building.

Documentation Process

We have found that the easiest way to complete the documentation process is to complete all of it after the task is over. This way, it can be completed in the most efficient way, and we can dedicate as much time as possible to building and repairing our bot.

Surprises

We were all surprised at how finicky robots and sensors were. Who would have guessed that you could brick a battery just by leaving it plugged in too long! We also were surprised at how insensitive the touch sensors were in their original iteration. This taught us how to be creative, and we have built a very unique system using the touch sensors to up the torque on them so they actually trigger.

Advice for Future Teams

Make your team members sign their commitments in blood. Our team had too many problems with team members deciding to quit the team for whatever reason too far into the season. Also, do not set arbitrary deadlines, else you will find your team tearing itself apart just to satisfy a deadline that could be broken with no real consequences. Also, do not be scared to change your plan. Don't waste time going down a path that in the end bears no fruit.