The questions below are the outline for a short essay paper. As with the homework 3 essay, you are to write this on your own – I'm interested in your individual analysis of your project to date, not a group consensus.

Your essay should be approximately one page long. It can extend over that by a paragraph or two, but the absolute maximum is two pages. A page is defined to be text written in 12 point type, with approximately one inch margins, single spaced.

There will be an online turn-in link for this on the class calendar page. This paper is due Thursday night March 9th before 11:59PM.

Provide an answer for question 1 and question 2 (option 1 OR option 2, but not both).

1.   Describe an important feature of your beta release application that is very close in capability to the plan for this feature that was presented in the LCA.

        a.   What is the feature and why is it important? Reference or quote from LCA materials to show what the plan for the feature was originally.

        b.   Describe the current capabilities of the feature in the beta release code and show how they match the LCA promises.

2.   (option 1) Describe an important feature of your beta release application that was *not* described in the LCA planning but was later recognized as important and included during the development cycle that followed.

        a.   What is the feature and why is it important? At the least, describe what this feature does from the user point of view and from an architectural (or technical) point of view and show why it is necessary to the application's success.

        b.   What could your group have done differently that would have allowed you to more effectively anticipate the need for this feature? Discuss what McConnell has to say about this type of problem and his specific suggestions for avoiding it.

2.   (option 2) If you believe that every feature and architectural aspect of your beta release was forecast correctly in the LCA paperwork, here is an alternate question. Compare your original LCA schedule and milestones with the actual experience of the group and the actual milestone dates.

        a.   Describe the most significant deviation from the original schedule. What did you do to recover the schedule time lost to this unexpected deviation?

        b.   What could your group have done differently that would have allowed you to more efficiently accomplish the original schedule? Discuss what McConnell has to say about this type of problem and his specific suggestions for avoiding it.