On a large project of this type, it is critical to begin work early and sustain a consistent effort. It is all too easy to spend one’s time on small well-defined homework sets in other courses, only to fall behind on the big project. The average student should plan to spend an average of 10 hours per week on a 3-credit course, including lecture attendance.

To help motivate your consistent attention to this, each student is to email a one-paragraph weekly status report to their group leader. This paragraph should summarize the week’s progress, the focus of current work, and the number of hours worked that week. It should also include a running total of the total number of hours spent on the course, for the whole semester. The group leaders are to collect these paragraphs into a single group status report and forward the group report to Prof. Schneider and the TA. The individual reports should be emailed to the group leader each Thursday, so that the group reports can be received by Prof. Schneider each Friday at 5PM.

These reports will also help your instructor assess student load.