Mentor: Professor Tracy Meyer M.S. M.A.

Profession: Professor of Psychology at Collin College

Location (Name, Street Address, City, State, Zip): Collin College at Preston Ridge, 9700 Wade Blvd, Frisco, TX 75035

Date: April 17, 2018

Time: 12:40 P.M.

Assessment:

On Tuesday, April 17, Professor Meyer and I met for our 11th mentor visit. During this visit, we discussed the results I found after running the correlation matrix and t-tests. We also talked about the upcoming steps in the final product process.

Now that data analysis is complete, I am more excited than ever about my results. It has been so interesting to go through the immense amount of raw data and find specific trends and results. Professor Meyer was extremely helpful in this portion of my final product, as I was unfamiliar with how t-testing, correlation matrices, and p-values worked. Through this process, I learned a lot about the research process. In my original work, I only looked at personality traits and grade letter at Reedy, so the data analysis process was not nearly as tedious. Additionally,
my fall conclusions did not have much empirical support. When I was working by myself, I did not know to look for p-values and statistical significance. At this mentor visit, Professor Meyer and I went through the correlation results and discussed which results we found surprising and the results we expected to find. For example, we expected that female students would be more neurotic (prone to anxiety and guilt) and conscientious (organized) than male students. We did not expect to find that athletes are more conscientious than fine arts students or that older siblings are more open than younger siblings. Professor Meyer also informed me of the importance of discussing results that were interesting, but not necessarily statistically significant (P<0.1). This type of result can be seen in the birth order results. When comparing only children versus children with siblings, there is virtually no difference in the academic habits and personality traits in the two groups. This is really interesting and may indicate that Frisco ISD students are not hindered by having more or less siblings. I am extremely grateful for Professor Meyer’s advice and willingness to help me with this product. As a result, my final product is more accurate and organized than my original work.

At this mentor visit, we also began discussing the next steps in my final product. Data analysis may be complete, but I now need to keep moving forward in this process. Now I will need to go back and look for studies with results that are similar to my conclusions. By doing so, I will be able to provide more support for my findings in the discussion portion of my paper. This secondary research portion may be tricky because the studies I looked into during the initial portion of my research were limited. Perhaps I could go back through the same articles I read before I began the correlations and t-testing. Additionally, having specific t-tested and correlated results will help me to narrow down and search specifically for the type of article I need. My
final product has really helped me with my research skills. Prior to this project, I would aimlessly read articles until I figured I had collected enough information. However, now I am able to narrow my searches down and skim for keywords before committing to reading an article that may or may not be helpful. One trick Professor Meyer taught me is to read the abstract of the paper in order to determine the results of the study and whether or not the paper will be helpful. This shortcut has saved me a lot of time and I was grateful for that piece of advice.

As I continue this process, I need to be writing my paper that I will submit for publication. The paper is one portion of my final product where I feel like I have been slacking. Due to the long portion of time and energy spent on data analysis, I have been ignoring the writing aspect of my final product. Now that data analysis is completed, I will need to devote more of my time to writing the paper. During this mentor visit, Professor Meyer walked me through the steps of the research paper. I will need to write an abstract, introduction, procedure, variables portion, results, discussion, and conclusion. At the end of the paper, I will need a bibliography in APA format and an appendix with the specific matrices and t-test charts discussed in the results portion of the paper. All of this seems overwhelming right now, but Professor Meyer seemed confident that I would be able to complete this paper in a timely manner and to the best of my ability. Through my final product, I am learning so much about the publication and research paper process. When completing the paper for my original work, I wrote the paper in MLA format and did not include an appendix. It is very valuable to be able to work with an experienced professional who can help guide you in such a confusing process.

Overall, this mentor visit was very productive and I am extremely grateful for all of Professor Meyer’s wise advice and willingness to help. I learned so much about the research
paper and secondary research portions of completing a study and I cannot wait to implement these ideas and tips into my final product.