Erin Brill

Mr. Speice

Independent Study and Mentorship 3B

9 March 2018

Handbooks and Hypotheses

Mentor Visit Assessment #1

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

**Profession:** Professor of Psychology

**Location:** Collin College at Preston Ridge (9700 Wade Blvd, Frisco, TX 75035)

**Date:** January 16, 2018

**Time:** 12:30 P.M.

**Assessment:**

On Tuesday, January 16, I met with Professor Meyer for my first mentor visit. I was very excited for this meeting because I could not wait to discuss my original work survey results and begin working with Professor Meyer.

During this initial visit, we looked over the Frisco ISD ISM mentor handbook. We discussed expectations for weekly visits and important dates for the program. Additionally, we exchanged contact information. Although the handbook was not very exciting, I enjoyed chatting with Professor Meyer. She was so enthusiastic about being my mentor and seemed more than happy to follow through with all mentor expectations and guidelines. During this visit, I realized that I had definitely made the right choice in picking Professor Meyer as my mentor for the year.
During this visit, I was able to share my results and findings from my original work. As I have mentioned in previous assessments and weekly reports, I completed a study regarding the impact of Big Five personality traits on the academic performance of high school students. In December, while I was in the process of brainstorming ideas and creating the survey, I interviewed Professor Meyer. She gave me a lot of helpful ideas and even recommended I use the Big Five personality assessment for my means of measuring personality. Due to her help, my original work was very successful. I was very grateful for her help and it was neat to share the results with her. It was very refreshing to speak with a professional about these results because she knew exactly what each personality trait meant and was able to analyze the results and add to my understanding of the findings. After speaking with Professor Meyer about the process, I realized that there are so many more ideas to test and changes to make in the future.

The highlight of this visit was brainstorming for my final product. Prior to this visit, I was worried about my product and about what my idea would be. I had originally been thinking about running a fundraiser for a research organization that works towards curing/treating a psychological disorder. However, I was a bit unsure about whether or not this would showcase my work this year. I brought up the upcoming final product proposal with my mentor and we began the brainstorming process. Sharing my results with Professor Meyer helped me to realize that I enjoy survey studies and analyzing data. We began thinking about possible topics for a new study that I could complete this spring. Instead of a fundraiser, Professor Meyer recommended that I continue my fall study, but extend it to include factors other than grade letters such as gender, GPA, amount of AP classes, and extracurriculars. In addition to the survey, I decided I would aim to write a article that is eventually published. Professor Meyer
agreed, and she recommended that I take it a step further and try and present at a conference. I was so grateful for her help in the brainstorming process, and I left this visit feeling inspired and excited about the spring semester and my final product.

Already, I have learned so much from Professor Meyer about the research process and data analysis. The day after this visit was the ISM Research Showcase. Professor Meyer recommended that in addition to presenting my work at the research showcase, I should also network with other high school and ISM students from across the district. By doing so, I can build connections with people that can eventually help distribute my survey across all Frisco ISD high schools. Before the next visit, I planned to continue brainstorming the factors that I would be testing for in my survey. In my opinion, this was a very successful initial mentor visit. I learned a lot from Professor Meyer and I know I made the right decision in choosing her for my mentor.
Mentor Visit Notes 1/16/18

- Shared all dates and expectations
  - Professor Meyer put dates in her phone calendar
  - Hopes to make it to Research Showcase
- Wednesdays and Thursdays at 12:30 P.M. should typically work for mentor visits
- Surprised at openness results
  - Typically linked to intelligence
- Agreeableness and low grade correlation was a bit surprising
- Not surprised at other results
  - Conscientiousness leads to organization and better grades
  - Extraversion and neuroticism should not influence grades
- Final Product
  - Fundraiser wouldn’t really showcase what I have learned
  - New study?
    - Continue study and expand it
      - More factors
      - More people - all FISD high schools
      - Gender, AP classes, GPA
    - More quantitative data
    - Sleep study?
  - Attempt publication
- Maybe undergraduate journal?
  - Attempt to speak and share research at a conference