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Mr. Speice

Independent Study and Mentorship 3B

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**Overcoming Fears**

Weekly Report 11/06/17 to 11/13/17

This week in ISM, students gave their Research Presentations to the class, sharing what they have learned throughout the course of the year so far. At first, I was really nervous about this task, but I was able to successfully overcome this fear of public speaking.

At the beginning of the week, I began writing the speech. After awhile, I realized that writing the entire speech out was not very efficient, and as a result, I decided to switch to writing an outline of the presentation on a series of index cards that I could use during the presentation. Once I completed the outline, I began working on the visual presentation for the speech. I decided on a Google Slides presentation that matched my color scheme for the year. I discussed all of my research assessments and my interviews so far. When everything was finished, I practiced my speech so that I would be more comfortable speaking in front of an audience. When practicing, my presentation was within the time constraints of ten to twelve minutes. This was exciting because I have previously had trouble with speaking for large amounts of time. Due to the fact that I have learned so much, I had no trouble at all meeting the time limit.
On the day of the presentation, I was not as nervous as I had anticipated. This really surprised me because usually I get nervous right before speaking in public. However, I knew my material and I had practiced, so my nerves were better than they usually are. When I finished my presentation, I received some constructive criticism from both my peers and Mr. Speice, and I will use their comments to improve my future presentations. Some of the tips they gave me included smiling more and getting rid of some of the awkward pauses in my speech. Next time, I will keep these tips in mind when preparing and practicing for the presentation.

This week I also thought of an idea for my original work. Since I am studying psychological research, I want to conduct some research of my own using survey responses from both FISD teachers and students. I plan to poll students for the True Color personality and their average grade letter and poll teachers for their True Color personality. I will analyze the data and see if there is a correlation between personality and grades as well as student personality and teacher personality. If students that are struggling in school have a very different personality than the educator, and students who are succeeding in school have a very similar personality to the educator, then perhaps there is a correlation. After I study the results of the poll and draw a conclusion from the data, I can create a plan for educators to better connect with students that may have a different personality/learning style.

Next week, I plan to continue research and cold calling. If it is approved, I plan to start working on my original work project. Overall, this was a good week and I am proud of myself for working through the public speaking fear. I am excited to see where my future research takes me in my ISM journey.
Accomplished this week:

- Wrote presentation
- Created visual presentation
- Practiced and gave my presentation
- Brainstormed my final idea for my original work

Goals for next week:

- Get my original work idea approved
- Start my original work
- Continue research
- Schedule interviews with specialists in psychological research