Pallavi Pallerla

Mr. Speice

Independent Study Mentorship 3A

09 March 2018

**Mentor Visit Assessment #2**

**Mentor:** Jason Ballengee

**Profession:** Associate Principal Engineer

**Location:** Pepsico R&D, 5340 Legacy Dr #100, Plano, TX, 75024

**Date:** 06 March 2018

**Time:** 3:00 PM

**Assessment:**

Walking into my mentor visit, I knew that for the majority of the time, we will be working on the research aspect of my Final Product. However, we started off with small talk and what I was doing in school. I mentioned to Dr. Ballengee that I recently had a speech to present my Original Work. When I said this, Dr. Ballengee told me it is great practice because he usually gives a lot of presentations in his career. He pulled up a couple of presentations and showed me he had quite a few presentations back to back during a period of time. While showing me, he said that it eventually becomes a habit but it is also important to have great presentation skills show you look intelligent to your audience. Normally, if you are really good at presenting, you come off intelligent even if you really are not and if you are not good at presenting, you may come off as unintelligent even if you may be.

For the past two Mentor Visits, my mentor and I have been working on the research aspect of my Final Product. Even though research is only a small part of my Final Product, it is super important that we get as much information as possible to create the best prototype for a country I will later choose. We created a Research Chart earlier to help organized the information we gathered and to be sure we have all the necessary information to move forward on the plan of developing a water filter. This process is improving my organization skills because normally when I research information, I compile everything in one location. Developing a research chart in the future for potential research assignments will allow me to the most successful because I will know exactly what I will be looking for without any confusion and will be able to take out the most from my research.

I decided to research the environment of four developing countries and realized it was a bit difficult to get all the information I wanted to find. Usually, I try to find my information in databases to make sure they are reliable, but I noticed that most of the information I needed was not there. I ended up finding the information on organization websites that are helping to solve the same problem as me. During my mentor visit, Dr. Ballengee showed how to find certain information because they are not typically found in an article. He showed me how he usually researches topics near the topic I am researching because sometimes they are usually grouped together. For instance, we looked at fund me websites for children in Haiti to figure out the resources they have available in a village called Bahon. I was not expecting to find much information but from there we were able to figure out the material resources available to that specific village and the typical life of a villager. This was very interesting for me because I was getting the information I need from normal websites and not articles. Dr. Ballengee showed me a couple of websites that are reliable but are not a published article and from there, we were able to finish researching with great specificity. From here, I am planning on using what he taught me for the other countries I have left to research.

Overall, I would say my mentor visit was very productive. We were successful in researching Haiti in depth. By following the Product Calendar, we are on the path to a Final Product which makes me very excited. Usually, I struggle to keep up with a long calendar, however, I am focusing harder than usual so I am not tempted to fall behind. I am normally a procrastinator but since I am already with the calendar and not behind, I am motivated to keep it up. The exposure to effective research I received from this mentor visit makes me more confident to continue my research and to take a step forward in my journey for my Final Product.