The topic of my Senior Project (EA) involves creating a resource book for young women in the Portland area. The Essential Question framing my project is: “What is involved in creating a publication directed towards young women, to encourage them to realize their personal potential and make wise life decisions?” I chose this particular experience because when I look at the young women around me, I see how badly they need honest guidance and direction in their lives. This realization encouraged me to try to help in any way I could, and a Senior Project was the perfect opportunity to express this desire.

To begin the process of compiling a book, detailed research is required to successfully write and gather the material for publication. This project required plenty of hard work and dedication to stay focused and on task. To make sure that the stories were accurate and mistake-free, I wrote multiple versions of the stories and had other people proofread them. The content of the book had to be entertaining for teen girls, while still giving the reader something to consider. So this required pre-planning to make sure that there was a valuable point to each section of material included in my book. Designing each individual page layout required the use of the computer program Adobe PageMaker, thus making it essential for me to become familiar with the program. Also, to get the publication printed, it was necessary to research local printing options to find the best quality printer with the most affordable price. (Dorich)
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During the evolution of my publication I had the pleasure of working alongside my community consultant. On several occasions she and I were able to meet and discuss the progress of my Senior Project. I would write down questions and concerns that appeared in between our visits so that I could recall them to share with her at our meetings. However, when a pressing issue came up that had to be resolved immediately, I would call her and we would discuss the matter.

Having someone else understand the details of my project was very valuable, especially since she was closely involved yet still able to see the big picture of how I wanted the final product to turn out. For example, she was able to point out that I needed to be careful that the content of my publication did not cover too broad of a topic. I was excited with the progress of the book and was constantly coming up with new ideas for additions. She was closely involved in helping me with design concepts for my book and the editing process of the stories.

As I look back over the past few months of my senior year, I have to say that I am pleased and impressed with myself! If someone had told me my freshman year of high school what I would accomplish my senior year through a senior project, I doubt I would have believed them. It has been only in the past two years that my interest in journalism and helping young girls has really flourished.
Reflection Paper Example

My source of pride is the product of my Senior Project, a book for young girls called *Magenta Soleil*. This book is a compilation of many sections designed to help motivate and inspire young girls.

Since I am very happy overall with my product, if I was to go back and make improvements to it, I would only have a few adjustments to make. I would have loved to include life stories of local young women making a difference, whether in their own lives or in the life of someone else. Although I did spend plenty of time trying to establish contacts to interview, unfortunately I was not able to secure any interviews in the end. Also, as I look back, I realized that there are several other areas of concern for teen girls that I was not able to provide contact information for. Although I think I covered the major subjects well, I would like to add in a few other areas since they are issues young girls face in daily life.

Over the course of my Senior Project these past few months, I have acquired many new skills and a greater knowledge of my topic. Before I was in this class, I tended to be hesitant and shy in dealing with business professionals. I felt a little intimidated and would avoid having to deal personally with them if it was at all possible. However, during the course of my project, many times it was necessary for me to initiate contact with business professionals. Although it was hard at the beginning, now at the completion of my project, I no longer find this a difficulty. In fact, I had not even noticed the change in myself; someone had to point this difference out to me! Also, I have found that I am more confident when dealing in person with business professionals.

During the course of this project I have learned very much, including new
Reflection Paper Example

things about myself! I have realized that I am a list-maker, organizing all my tasks on one list. I enjoy seeing my progress this way. Hand in hand with making lists, I tend to be an organized creator. I prefer to work methodically, beginning and ending each section before moving on to the next.

Also, I have come to realize that I have a unique working style. I prefer to, and work better when, I have the room to spread my working materials out around me. I like being able to see everything I have to work with, and having enough room that I do not feel cramped up in a tiny space. Furthermore, I tend to be more creative in my own space at home. I can get away from most distractions and really concentrate on the task at hand. Often times I came up with the most creative and unique page designs and story ideas when I was working by myself in my own space.

Additionally, during the writing and design processes I enjoy having time to formulate my ideas and thoughts and then “bounce” them off someone whose opinion I trust. Often times this is when my best ideas are created because I enjoy verbally sharing my ideas.

Throughout the course of this project I have also realized that I really enjoy the design process of creating a publication. Being able to combine journalism with design to create interesting page and book layouts was a very enjoyable part of my Senior Project. I would like to pursue this topic and gain a greater understanding and working knowledge of other design concepts.

My Senior Project and near future are definitely closely connected. I am
interested in pursuing a career in journalism, so I know that the experience I
gained from this project is very valuable. This has allowed me to gain confidence
in my ability and reinforced my desire to enter the field of journalism. However, I
am not concretely tied to this particular career at this point. My other appealing
option that this project has opened my eyes to, is a wonderful program that is
based in Portland. The Children’s Cancer Association is dedicated to helping
children with cancer go through their treatment as pleasantly as is possible. The
programs the Association sustain are amazing and really appeal to me. If I had
not been doing research for this project, I doubt I would have found out about this
organization. Also, I have not given up my original idea of starting an
organization for young girls in the Portland area to help them with self-confidence
issues and body image perception. After researching all the programs available
to girls, I realized that Portland is obviously a great city in which to run teen help
programs. The need for help is out there; maybe I can be the one to help fill it a
little more!

References

Adobe edits, . "Join the eBook publishing revolution." Adobe Products U.S.A.

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