

Research Assessment #2

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Subject: Business Symposium

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Assessment: Business Symposium Assessment

Last week, I had the wonderful opportunity to go to the annual ISM Business Symposium at Independence HS. The ISM Business Symposium is an event where all Fisd ISM students come together to network amongst themselves and meet professionals from many different fields. This event also provides students with the opportunity to speak with ISM alumni and listen to an inspirational presentation given by an ex-ISM teacher turned Entrepreneur. The 3 hours full of rotations includes mock interviews with professionals that prepare the students for what they will have to go through with their informational interviews. The extra practice is super beneficial to ISM 1 students in particular who may not have a good grasp on interacting with professionals - I know I didn't

Since this was the second time that I was going through this whole process, I knew what to look for and my whole overall experience was much more beneficial to me than it was my junior year. Due to the fact that it was my second year, the first half of my time at the Business symposium was spent interacting with ISM 1 students one-on-one. I talked to both juniors and seniors that are currently in the ISM 1 program and gave them a few tips about surviving the rigorous program during the course of our conversations. For the most part, the people that sat down across from me were quite nice and open to all that I had to offer about my experiences as both a student in the medical field and corporate field. It was very encouraging to get to talk to many other students that are like myself because it shows just how much potential and drive there is in my generation to reach those high-ranking jobs and positions.

The one interview that I did get to fit in with a professional was with Kimberly Urso, who used to be a teacher and is now a real estate agent. From the moment that I started my introduction, I knew I sat down at the right table because she stopped me after a few seconds and told me to restart with fewer "um's". I know that filler words are a problem, especially for people my age, but during the course of my interview with Kimberly, I made sure to really think about what I was saying and to structure my sentences in a way that flowed better. She helped me greatly with how I answered questions and staying positive about myself and not focusing on the aspects that I lack or the characteristics of mine that need improvement. I don't want to shoot myself in the foot during an interview where I'm trying to convince them to like me! I felt that I really gained a lot from my 15 minutes with Kimberly because I went home after school that day and immediately started vetting my college apps for negativity and any instances where I undermine my positive attributes.

Overall, I am extremely pleased with the time I spent at the business symposium because I met lots of new people (and gained many new connections on LinkedIn) and learned some quality lessons for the professional world.