

## Research Assessment #2

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Assessment: Business Symposium Assessment

On Wednesday, October 4th, I attended the 2017 ISM Business Symposium. At this event, I was able to meet and talk to a multitude of different professionals, network with other ISM students, and interview professionals in a mock professional setting. During my allotted interview time, I met with Dennis Satre from HALFF Associates and Mikaya Walker from the Rough Riders. Both interviews were very informational and gave me an opportunity to gain more experience communicating with professionals.

During the first session of the symposium, my group was in the networking room. This room encouraged us, as students, to speak to other ISM students about their experiences and their topic of study. The ISM 2 student who I spoke with taught me about the mentor process and the difficulties of studying medicine in ISM. I realized that my problems with getting interviews is not rare and most other students studying some form of medicine have trouble getting ahold of physicians who would be willing to meet with them. She also answered questions I had about getting a mentor and explained how she reached out to professionals last year. By speaking to other ISM students, I was reminded that many other people are going through the same first-time process as I am and facing the same challenges. I also realized that the amount of students in ISM is very slim compared to the total amount of students in Frisco ISD. The small amount of people that attended the business symposium represent the small percentage of students that are taking advantage of their surroundings and getting a jumpstart into their future. A lot of the time I find myself comparing myself to my peers and since many of my friends are all top academic performers, I sometimes find myself getting anxious about my future and doubting myself. After looking around and realizing that I was amongst an exceptional group of students, I was reminded that I, too, am exceptional and very proud to be a part of such an amazing organization.

My first interview was with Mikaya Walker from The Rough Riders. Throughout this interview, we talked a lot about values and good lessons to learn before stepping into the working world. One thing that we talked about was the unfortunate obstacles women, and especially women of color, have to face in the professional environment. I realized that I will have to be extra careful and work harder than anyone around me to be able to establish myself as a successful adult. It is a known fact that women are often seen as intellectually inferior in companies or workplaces and therefore have a harder time finding jobs. During my conversation with Ms. Walker, I was reminded of a girl of whom I spoke to earlier that day. She told me that the first person she interviewed told her that she was unfit to pursue her chosen field and should pursue marketing instead. I was appalled that someone would say that to her face, but it made me realize that the real world is not going to be like the nice bubble we have here in Frisco. It is not going to be as easy once I am left to fend for myself as an adult and this makes it even more important to begin building my professional foundation now. The same girl that I spoke to told me that she did not let the opinion of one man keep her from accomplishing the goals she had

set for herself. This is what I strive to do. I aim to not let anyone's opinion deter me from accomplishing my goals and becoming successful in the way I have imagined myself becoming for so long.

In relation to striving to fulfilling my goals, Mr. Wysong from Tumbleweed Textstyles gave a very motivational presentation about overcoming obstacles and being the best and most successful person you can be. Mr. Wysong shared his past experiences with failure and how he got to where he is now. Having had my own experiences with failure, I was fascinated with what he had to say about getting over life's obstacles. In addition to talking to us about overcoming obstacles, he encouraged us to strive for success by making goals and establishing morals. He stressed the importance of staying true to your morals because it is easy for people to be faced with fame or fortune of any kind and stray from their original morals. This concept I found extremely captivating because it is something I have not heard as advice given to young adults before. This presentation motivated me to strive to accomplish the goals I had set for myself at the beginning of this year and try to become as successful as I can while staying true to myself and maintaining my personal values.