

Reflection:

1. What were your expectations when you first started to work on the paper, on the product and with your mentor? Did your experiences meet those expectations? How did they differ?

Before I started this project I knew that I would find things I wouldn't have expected and I would have to learn a lot of new things if I wanted to use this topic for my Senior Project.

2. What problems did you encounter while researching and writing the paper? What was your greatest resource in overcoming these obstacles?

One huge problem that slowed me down was my mentor. My original mentor was a youth counselor for a very big mosque in our community. Although he was very qualified, it was really hard to meet with him since he was very busy with so many things and responsibilities which is why I had to do most of the things by myself. However, after several tries to contact him, my teacher suggested that I choose someone else who was easily accessible to me. That was when I changed my mentor to the health teacher of Michigan Islamic Academy, Sr. Bayne Alem who helped me a lot especially with my product event.

3. What was the most interesting or surprising information you learned in your research?

The most shocking thing I probably learned came from the Family and Youth Institute, whom I used for my research. This had some statistics from the surveys they had conducted throughout the country. The thing that shocked me most was one fact where 51% of young Muslims believe that smoking cigarettes is not haram.

4. What did you learn about yourself during this project? How will you use what you learned throughout the rest of your life, academic or not?

One of the things that this project made me realize is how much I like working on something for the community. When I held my event, I was so happy afterwards because I knew that everyone who came learned something new and they took something away from it. As the years go by, I want to dedicate more and more time to helping the community to become better. Also, I learned so many self improvement tips that I will use as I get older especially when I become a father.

5. What did the project teach you about the holistic view Islam has for every aspect of our life?

I learned that no matter how righteous a person is or his family is, they are all subject to the temptations and problems of this world. However, it did strengthen my relationship with Allah swt because as long as you Allah swt, you can be helped.

6. What would you do differently now that you have finished?

One thing that I think that would have helped me more is meeting more people who are working with this issue. Each person would have their own view from the experiences they have seen and the people they have dealt with. Also, it would have been really helpful if I met someone who had gone drug abuse and see for first hand why they went into drugs,

7. What advice would you give to next year's seniors about how to achieve success on the senior project?

During this project I made a lot of mistakes and such I learned a lot of things.

Some pieces of advice I would give are:

- Do not procrastinate your assignments, try to turn them in before the due date if possible.

- When choosing your mentor, choose someone who you know you can meet easily and who is willing to help you.
 - Get out of your comfort zone,
 - Just because it is a big project, doesn't mean you can't have fun and be creative with it.
 - Try to expand your horizons and learn new things.
 - Pick a topic that goes with your interests and likes.
8. What grade would you give yourself for the project? Give your justifications.

I would have to give myself a B for this project mainly because I know I could have done better. Also I wish I had done more research and met with more people. Also because I did delay a few things to the last minute.