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### The Start of Something New

Weekly Report 08/22/16-09/4/16

The second week of ISM comes to an end with an eventful start. This last week consisted of formal introductions as well as going over the general ISM syllabus. Every student was to choose a quote which they believed would motivate, inspire or impact their ISM journey and their journey in the real world. Through multiple examples and concepts inspired from upper class ISM students, we created our mission statements and set them as the basis of the career project. When it comes to creating a proficient professional stance, body language, style, speech content and a general confidence needs to be shown. Such concepts were shown through a TED talk video in which professionals come in and talk about their area of expertise. After learning the basics, every student was expected to give an introductory speech to the whole class expressing their ISM and career journeys, hopes and dreams.

Something I believe I have accomplished is setting the path and a basic skeleton for my ISM project as well as creating goals to accomplish until final presentation night. With all that in mind, questions like “what are some efficient ways to improve speaking skills as well as creating a professional identity?” are something I take away from these activities.

A major challenge that I believe every student might have faced would be regarding the introductory speeches specifically delivering the speech as well as “calming the nerves.” Public speaking is a skill that requires a lot of practice and confidence. Speaking in front of our new ISM class seemed a bit nerve wracking and overwhelming considering it was our first speech. Plans for overcoming such challenges include consistently talking in front of people with passion as well as confidence. A way to get rid of the nerves is to enjoy the given speech material and feeling confident about the speech content. Once those are achieved, being a successful and passionate speaker is easy to become. With that being said, the introductory speeches were used to break the ice in the new ISM class and was one successful aspect of this week. Being able to show our peers and the teacher who we are as a person and what we aspire to be was a major accomplishment for this week.

Next week brings in the research regarding the ISM topics/career paths as well as mentor search. Speaking skills will be assessed on again as interview basics will learned. Mentor search will be in motion and the ISM journey begins!