

## Looking Back While Also Looking Forward

Independent Study Mentorship

Weekly Report 23: February 19 - February 23, 2018

This week has been about finalizing my ideas and plans for my Final Product. With the year already zooming by, it is very important that I begin my final product process as soon as possible. This is what led me in meeting with my mentor, Dr. Hull, on Monday in order to discuss future plans for ISM and my product proposal.

With Dr. Hull already reviewing my product proposal rough draft earlier this week, it allowed for us to go over ways to better develop my product in a way that would benefit the community and veterinarians in a more efficient and relevant way. Before meeting with Dr. Hull I had plans on researching my final product by looking at individual topics such as orthopedics and cardiology. However, upon meeting with Dr. Hull, he suggested that I look at my research breed by breed in order to save time from having to go back and forth between each breed's data. Additionally, Dr. Hull helped show me the benefits of specific research tools that I could use for my product such as "Genetic Breed Predispositions to Disease for Dogs and Cats, 3rd Edition". Dr. Hull's guidance in helping me lay the foundation for my final product has set me up to be prepared for the research to come and how I want to format it and find it credibly.

In addition to preparing for my final product this week, I also had to finish wrapping up my original work. After presenting last week, I had to review the good and bad things from my presentation. It was exciting to see the growth I had from my first presentation, however, I noticed much room for improvement. Although I have gotten better at maintaining a calmer composure while performing, I still need to work on maintaining my organization throughout the presentation so that I don't get the audience lost.

Overall this week was about reflection and forwardness. I was able to review my growth and past mistakes while also preparing for what I want to do in the future. Seeing my areas of improvement from my presentation, as well as hearing

some advice from my mentor, has enabled me to feel equipped in building my final product for the end of the year.