

Grow and Take Action

Independent Study Mentorship

Weekly Report 3: September 4- September 8, 2017

This week started out as intimidating. With the reality and seriousness of this course settling in, it became clear that the class was going to push students to chase their dreams eloquently and ruthlessly. Students were encouraged this week to have a strong drive and presence when pursuing their dreams which was done through an individual presentation, handshaking practice, and a research assessment.

The first assignment that was executed this week was the Individual Presentation where students were challenged to share who they are and what they want to do. This proved to be difficult for many students since the speech required a long-term vision. Additionally, the presentation tested the speaking abilities of students as they were peer and teacher graded on their vocals, intonation, articulation, and expressivity. It became evident at the end of presentations that students will need to practice refining their skills so that while presenting to a tough crowd students will not freeze under pressure.

Midweek, at the beginning of class, an almost humorous activity took place: handshaking practice. Although many students found this task to be unimportant and silly, it actually serves as a very important practice to have mastered in order to enter the professional world. If your handshake is weak, you will give off the impression as inferior and unconfident. If your handshake is too fast and strong, it shows nervousness and franticness. In general, it became clear that having a sturdy handshake filled with confidence and calmness is key in impressing professionals.

The last activity that encourages professional behavior in students this week was the first research assignment. Students had to find an article that could be annotated and analyzed through the lense of their desired research topic. In doing this, it allowed for students to explore their field with their own interests in mind; this sparked excitement in many students. By getting to analyze and direct their interests, a new realm of possibility was opened up for students; you don't have to be enrolled in a college course to learn more about your field of study, the internet provides plenty of resources.

It is evident that this week was focused on developing the mindset and professionalism of an aspiring student; ISM is encouraging students to grow and take action in their passions.

