

Original Work Assessment

Creating my Original Work was one of the most exciting things I've done in ISM all year. When I first began working on it, I was still thinking about pursuing divorce and family law, but once I got my mentor and became more interested in public interest law, my idea in studying domestic violence solidified. I created the project primarily through researching domestic violence and the patterns that make it so prominent across the world. The research certainly wasn't the hardest part, however. The biggest challenge I faced was to taking the information I had compiled and finding a way to apply it to my Original Work project. The project reflected how much work I had put into my research because the infographic I created was thoroughly researched and developed, showcasing how much time I had put into making something of high quality.

Additionally, the second major part of my Original Work was to build a plan for a country with bad rates of domestic violence and address ways the nation could resolve the issue. I chose Rwanda because I felt like it was one of the most interesting ways to show how eradicating domestic violence is more than just creating stringent laws and trying to force gender equality. I felt that using a nation that was already very progressed in terms of their gender equality, based on factors such as percentage of women holding political office, and highlighting how even they struggled with domestic violence would be enlightening to how much of an engrained social issue domestic abuse really is. From researching Rwanda, I had to use higher-level thinking skills to realize that female safety is more than just giving females rights; change comes from the bottom up and due to their strong patriarchal past, it was going to take more than just legislation to reduce domestic violence.

These higher-level thinking skills all came together to create something that I truly do believe could be applied in the real world. Although the movement that I propose in my project would have to be grown over time and would take a strong level of cooperation from all corners of society, I believe in the value of always trying to make the world a better place. It is in this that I have grown a lot personally, too. Not only did

I develop more professionally with my stronger abilities to create a strong and involved research project, but it really changed my outlook on the world. I know now with hard facts that things are still difficult, even in places where theoretically they shouldn't be, but based on positive trends, I have a deep hope that things will get better as long as people committed to improvement.

From here, I still have a lot to gain. I want to push myself for my Final Product to create something not so theoretical, but something that will directly make a difference in my community. ISM is such a wonderful opportunity to go out of my comfort zone and to apply myself to things that I couldn't do otherwise, and I don't want to take that for granted. While in this stage of high school where I can take risks and try new things, I want to get as much out of it as possible. In other words, I want to push myself to do something that will definitely help the world around me, rather than make a plan for it, still hiding behind the safety of a laptop. In all, I have learned so much over the past few weeks and there is no doubt in my mind that I will take with me what I have learned, but still, I hope that from here I can achieve bigger and better things on my ISM journey.