

Senior Project Final Journal

For my senior project I learned how to paint and do body work on my own vehicle. I began by observing in my mentor's shop, then we took the hood off my truck and he had me begin sanding it. We then put a layer of acid down to neutralize any of the little spots of rust. After that I walked through how to measure out the ratio of the primer to the hardener that we primed the hood with. You have to hold the sprayer gun the right distance from the hood or the coat could come out uneven or the paint could run. When I wasn't painting I worked on the body work side of things. I patched a few holes in the floor panels of my truck by cutting out the rust and welding in new metal. It felt awesome to be able to do these things on my own without having to pay a shop to do them.

Throughout this project I really realized the extent to which I can procrastinate. I had a lot of days when I could have been doing work with my mentor but, I thought "oh I'll just do it next week." I feel like I wasted too much time that way. If it wouldn't have been for my parents pushing me to call my mentor and schedule meetings with him. This project has taught me how valuable time management is. I wish I would have done more of my project earlier, that way I would have had less stress when applying to colleges and overall balancing school work.

Although I did procrastinate I feel like I did well getting most things in by the deadlines. I also did well prioritizing getting work done. I decided to not go on the highschool ski trip to go work with my mentor on my product. I will say that my product came out a success and I can credit that to the ages I spent trying to perfect each stage to the best of my ability. I had my share of low points as well. I had plenty of days where I just lacked the motivation to do work. There were spans of me not contacting my mentor because of that. I also felt like because I waited so long to start my project I caused myself a lot of stress trying to balance school work and my job. I had to strap in and sacrifice my free time to work through it and stay afloat.

I had a lot of support throughout this project whether it be from my parents, mentor or Senior English class. I definitely wouldn't be where I am without all those support structures. At the beginning of the year I wasn't sure about Senior English but it was incredibly helpful in times where I felt stuck during the project. When writing my paper it was especially helpful to have Lissa to bounce questions off of. Even though I might not have liked the feedback I see now that it has helped greatly. If my parent wouldn't have given me the push to schedule times with my mentor I probably wouldn't have had a product.

Writing the research paper taught me a lot and not just how to write a good research paper. Of course writing this paper was extremely helpful to prepare me for the many I will have to write in the future. Much of the research I did I found interesting and I learned a lot about electric vehicles in the process. I learned how complicated the internals on these electric vehicles can be and which direction the auto mechanical career is going.

If I could go back and give myself advice I would definitely tell myself to do as much of my project as possible as soon as possible to avoid the other headaches of senior year. Going back on it I realize the time I wasted just putting off the start of my project and if I could do it again I definitely would have started sooner and tried to get most of it done before school even started. I wish I would have made a more detailed plan of my project as well so I would have had more of a structured way to work. This project would have been so much easier if I had been more proactive and set aside time out of my free time to do work.