

## **Original Work Assessment**

The original work in Independent Study and Mentorship is essentially a project that tests one's knowledge through half of the year. It is meant to challenge students in their topic of study and put in to practice what they have learned so far. I am studying entrepreneurship so I thought a great for me to challenge myself was to base my Original Work over groundwork for my future career. I decided to create an "opportunity book" of potential industries I could dive into in the future. I have never done this before, so the amount of time it took to even scratch the surface of one industry (hotels) was new to me. This opportunity book is very important to me as it serves as the preliminary research and game plan for after college. Throughout my life, I will continue to add to and improve the plan so that I can refer to it when I need pure information or ideas.

The opportunity book includes four distinct sections (so far): industry outlook, LaSalle Hotel Properties case study, Host Hotels & Resorts case study, and future research and opportunities. In the future, I could add more case studies and even more research into the industry. The limits are truly endless and the amount of information I could absorb before/during college will give me the best experience and use of my time. When I created the opportunity book, I realized that it was all new to me. I had never done anything like this before so I had to conduct extensive research in order to form slides over the information and think critically about how to find/display information. There was no guide book, and I had to learn how to conduct a case study (stock pitch) from scratch.

The most difficult part of my Original Work had to have been the two case studies. Finding the information was very difficult as I had to read through many articles and use higher level critical thinking skills to determine which information was most important and how to find that information. Also, I did not want the PowerPoint to be bland and unappealing to the eye. Through looking at various images and websites, I attempted to create a PowerPoint based on a non-generic theme and make it so that people would be intrigued and want to learn more.

Last year in ISM, I also studied entrepreneurship and ended up creating a business plan for a phone case company as my Original Work. Having done that, I decided to stray away from creating another business plan and see how to most benefit my future. I focused on the real world. When I get out of college, I want to know exactly what I am going to do and have a plethora of knowledge around the industry/field I end up pursuing (hotels, banks, apartments, etc.). This opportunity book will be the groundwork for my future career and starting in high school puts me years ahead of other individuals.

Throughout completing the Original Work, I have grown significantly as a person. While interviewing professionals, I learned the types of questions to ask to obtain the most information out of a person. I have become more professional through meeting with successful individuals and seeing how they go about life. Through modeling myself around their positive traits, I will be in the best shape for the future. Similarly, I have grown personally as I truly know what I want. I want to learn as much as I possibly can, and I have a true passion for entrepreneurship. This is the beginning of my journey; the future is ahead but I will be in front of it.