

Showcase

Weekly Report 1/15/18 to 1/21/18

This past week was quite possibly the most intense and most stressful week of my entire life. I had a DECA competition on Tuesday followed by the Research Showcase on Wednesday, not to mention that every spare second that I had, I spent it on working on my original work. However, I believe the most interesting point about this week was that I have genuinely never felt more alive and more thrilled to take on another adventure.

Let's begin with my DECA competition. The competition itself has two components: test and roleplay. On that Tuesday, I had already taken my test beforehand and I was heading over to the competition area for my roleplay. The roleplay, in essence, is a scenario with a business type setting with a set of guidelines and certain targets that you have to achieve in order to do well. Luckily, I have gotten a lot better in terms of talking to professionals, or even adults in general, about their professions and some of my ideas. Sure enough, I did indeed win. Another aspect that I had not expected to aid me during the DECA competition was my ability to network. ISM at its core is built around this idea, and I put it to good use when I was trying to promote my friend who was running for Regional President.

Now, as for the showcase, my networking and small talk skills were put to the test. Although I did have practice the previous day, the showcase event was more of a spotlight on me, and that was a very different environment than the DECA competition. However, I quickly adapted and had a very enjoyable, successful night. I even got my mentor, Professor Sekula, and I admit it, I could not hold in my excitement.

All in all, it was an amazing week. I learned new ideas, spoke to new people, made new friends, all thanks to the skills I learned during ISM. Fundamentally, I believe I learned what ISM is truly about: push hard enough and you'll move the universe. That is exactly what I did this week, and in the weeks that follow, I hope to emulate the same amount of drive, energy, and hard work I have to truly innovate and change the world.

Until next week,

Sahil Jain