Vani Mittal

Prompt: *What are some of the differences you've noticed between a school environment and a professional work environment?*

I've seen that a professional work environment is more laid back and loosely structured than what we see in a school environment, while still being very productive and team efficient. For example, in the workplace, employees can and are specifically encouraged to collaborate with colleagues on tasks to gain diverse perspectives and viewpoints on what can make that completed task most successful in a time-efficient manner. However, on the other side, in a school atmosphere, students are usually discouraged from collaborating on tasks such as homework and tests, which makes the environment a more strict and structured atmosphere. Because of this, I think that the work environment allows for more innovation and creativity than a school environment because employees can collaborate, let ideas float to their own pace, and act more independently than a school student might be allowed to.

Prompt: *What is a topic that you found interesting this week? How do you plan to seek additional information and learn more about that topic?*

One topic I found interesting was the strategy and transformation talk, as it focused on data analytics and data science. The session talked about how data analytics is used to make more informed and accurate decisions in finance, but also, in all other fields as well. We also did an interactive activity where we used a "problem scenario" to come to a company decision — this taught us about how to strategize in a company like Red Hat and keep changing and transforming to adapt to customer needs. To seek additional information, I can reach out to the leader of this session on LinkedIn or through email to ask questions or set up a meeting.

Prompt: *How is the internship meeting or not meeting your expectations/objectives and why? Do you have control of this? Explain.*

This internship is meeting my expectations because each day, I have been able to learn a lot about Red Hat, as well as the corporate world in general. I've heard from so many different people about their diverse company roles from software engineers to financial analysts to UX designers. Along with hearing from these speakers, I've also been able to do interactive activities to get a better feel of what employees at Red Hat do in their day to day lives. Further, I think I do have control of the internship meeting my expectations vs not because the more I contribute and participate in activities / sessions, the more I get out of the internship, thus, the more it meets my expectations.

Prompt: *If you could give advice to a student starting this internship next year, what would it be?*

I would tell the student to go in with an open and flexible mind, because this internship program is really a place to learn and ask questions instead of being expected to already know a bunch of information. I would also tell them to take advantage of all the people you meet and network with them whether through a message or Slack or connect on LinkedIn, or going up to them in person because it can really help create that connection

and open up opportunities as well! I think it's also important to keep an open mind in this internship because you are exposed to so many different fields within the company, so it is important to absorb all the information across various roles, rather than being stuck on only one role.