



# Jessica Zanchi

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

Considering that the main purpose of primary education is to prepare students for the workforce, it's definitely interesting to see the ways in which it has and hasn't achieved that goal. One of the key differences I noticed is that professional environments such as the one in Red Hat's office tend to be more laidback in terms of social expectations. People are allowed to contribute their unique ideas in so many different ways, and they do it for love of the craft rather than because they are required to receive a grade in a class. It's nice to be in a shared space where everyone has a common interest in mind.

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

A topic that I found interesting this week was the presentation about the relationship between User Experience, Product Management, and Technical Engineering. I really enjoyed the interactive aspect of it—how we got to brainstorm solutions to a problem within our own groups, and take turns sharing our thoughts at the end. Before this internship, I was aware that there was communication to be had between each department, but I didn't know just how often teams stop and check in with each other. I will seek more information about this phenomenon by speaking to any associates I find that would have relevant information next week.

***Who have you met during your internship that has made an impact on you, and why?***

Someone that I have met during my internship experience who really made an impact on me is Katie Riedesel, a project manager that volunteered to chat with me privately so I could ask questions about the development lifecycle. I know that she is a super busy person, probably with a completely full schedule, but she made time for me and was very patient with all my beginner level questions. She taught me about Agile and recommended tools like Trello and Gira so I could jump in right away. Because of her, I will be able to approach projects at school and at home with more confidence.

***What have you learned about yourself and what you want in a career?***

Through this internship, I definitely learned a little bit more about who I am in a professional setting, and what conditions I need to thrive while being in a corporate atmosphere. On a higher level, I learned that I have an interest in technical areas such as cybersecurity and user design. Before this experience, I knew I wanted to be in computer science, but I wasn't sure which area would fit me best. Beyond that, I also learned about my own habits and preferences when it comes to business meetings, presentations, and more. I'm starting to understand that I am most attentive when I have some way to engage, whether that be notes or participation.