Edward Zhu

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

I have noticed that in a professional work environment the dynamic is very different. In the workplace, everyone has their own schedule that they must follow and it is on them to be punctual. At school, your schedule is laid out for you by the school and it is incredibly organized. Each day you take a certain number of classes for a certain amount of time. In the office, meetings can get rescheduled, projects could get pushed forward, requiring adaptability and critical thinking. Overall, the workplace requires autonomy and being "your own boss".

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?

I found the role of a Business/Financial Analyst to be very interesting. I enjoyed going through the case study about the SwiftDrop and applying critical thinking skills from a financial and analytical standpoint. This is a potential career path I want to go down so I found it extremely engaging and interesting. I will seek additional information by connecting with Ms. Rayarao through Linkedin, Slack, or Email to learn more about being a financial analyst. I am also meeting with Ms. Sandling on Monday, who also works with Red Hat's financials in order to learn more about this line of work. Lastly, I aim to stay open and curious each and every day to take in as much information and knowledge as possible.

Prompt option 1: How is the internship meeting or not meeting your expectations/objectives and why? Do you have control of this? Explain.

The internship is exceeding my expectations as it has given me lots of opportunities to connect with people from a diverse range of industries from finance to UX. It has also introduced me to web design using CSS and HTML which was super interesting to me. I will definitely continue to learn and code with CSS and HTML continuing on even after the internship. Lastly, the internship has taught me a lot about various industries, providing a window into the corporate environment. (P.S. the food is amazing).

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

While generic, I would tell them to network as much as possible. Even if you're uncomfortable with talking to strangers, really put yourself out there and have a conversation with as many people as possible. It will help you build strong connections in the professional world and may be pivotal to your success later down the line. Be brave, and always take the initiative!