RWS 305 – Reflection and Direction Journal

Are Book Smart or Street Smarts Better at Work? Reflection:
Before reading this article my point of view leaned toward street smarts. Even as a child, I learned how cutthroat this world was and the knowledge that no matter how nice you are to someone they will always put themselves first. I related this thinking to my article because job hunting is similar. The people interviewing you are looking for specific answers, yet also a unique trait that can help enhance their company. When it comes to a college degree versus a high school diploma many employers would choose the college candidate. In today's society it is believed that going to college will guarantee you a job and make you a smarter adult. I believe this to an extent. While I am a college student and know I have a high chance of getting a job afterwards, but that's only because I'm in a major of demand. My Dad dropped out of high school and joined the army. This was the best decision he could of made and he is now working at the West Point military academy. However, after reflecting on my experiences, my families, and article I think the advantage of being street smarts or book smarts relies on society, timing, and the specific job. For instance, 20 years ago a college degree was not as common, and you were more likely to be successful without one. Trade jobs were crucial to society and allowed for anyone to have a job if they worked hard. While these jobs are still vital to society, as technology advances, they aren't as high paying. Street smarts can be a catalyst for someone's future. The way they work and they knowledge they received from their environment gives them an advantage over book smarts. They have a higher work ethic since they are trying to get a spot in a job that could advance their future. Another aspect of street smarts is who they know. In many jobs, having someone who currently works there can help with a recommendation or a foot in the door. Overall, I believe that street smarts are superior at work and the real world, but that it is limited. As we progress in technology and as a society, book smarts will be higher in demand. While both of these are limited, neither will be completely superior in every job. Streets smarts will come in handy at any time, but the specific job is where these two will be tested.

Cyber Career Killers Reflection:
I agree with this article significantly in all its points. Technology is advancing every day and the majority of people use some kind of electronic every single day. Most work forces, even ones with hands on skills, have a form of technology that enhances their workforce. I believe that your work tasks done on the internet should be only done while at work or on a work device. All other personal messages and postings should be on a separate device. While this might seem a bit strict, it allows for safety for both the worker and the workforce. For instance, my Dad has a government computer for his work. If he puts any personal messages or emails on that device, it will have to be reprogrammed and he will get in trouble. His job requires strict rules for the safety of the military and other civilians. Just like any other job, a negative outcome from a worker reflects on the entire company. One worker could cost thousands of people their jobs and

crush an entire corporation from just one internet mistake. This is why workers actions on the internet are monitored and can lead to consequences. When it comes to postings that a worker posts after hours on their personal device it can be more controversial. For example, if a worker posts a night out with their friends doing drugs or something rude, a coworker could find this and report them. Even though these actions were not done at work, it could still get them fired since it effected the company. I think that if the personal posting effects the integrity of the workplace, the individual should be held liable. It is very easy to avoid losing a career over the internet. You can be responsible on the cyber web by separating work and personal things on the internet. Another way is by having your personal postings on private where only your friends and family can see. It is important to understand that anything you post on the internet will stay with you forever. Personally, I am very cautious on the internet and will continue to teach my future family about internet safety.

How to Answer These Tricky Interview Questions Reflection:

I have a lot of experience in interviews and interviewing others. Being so involved and working multiple jobs in high school and college has allowed me to have a variety of interview teachings that has helped me grow. Every interview is based on the specific job and the position characteristics the person is looking for. Making a good impression is vital to moving forward. Sometimes one wrong answer can lead to being dropped. After reading this article I believe that the key to acing interview questions is by planning ahead and being able to think quickly on your feet. By doing research on the company, this enables you to be prepared and have an advantage. One thing that I learned was how to answer a salary question. I never thought this was discussed during some interviews and I totally agree that a range given is more beneficial than a set number.

Direction:

I believe that reading each of these articles has given me a greater perspective on how to better apply for a job. A key thing I learned is thinking ahead and doing research. Each job requires different things. Supply and demand also plays a big role while applying and can create competition. In this first article I learned about the advantages of being street smarts and book smarts. When applying to a job it's important to have both of these and be a more well-rounded candidate. You are more likely to succeed if you apply all your knowledge, skills, and work ethic. In my resume I will include my school experience and my extracurriculars to demonstrate I am well rounded and can manage a personal and work life. From the second article I learned about the importance of cyber safety. Over the next few years, technology will continue to advance and be able to display more things from the past. To ensure my safety and to keep my private life out of work I need to continue to be smart and safe online. Anything that I post now or while working at a job can affect my career and be shown to future employers. I will not include any inappropriate usernames or my social media in my resume and will continue to have these private. In the third article I learned about different techniques on how to answer interview

questions. Coming prepared is the most important, as well as, keeping the conversation work related. I will not include many personal things in my resume, but I will include experience that I want to go in depth on in my interviews. Overall, these three articles have helped me understand how to help myself be a better candidate for a job, enhance my chances for a job, and be professional while in the workplace. I will add these aspects into my resume and cover letter and continue to stay prepared.