

Attendance:

I am proud to say that I haven't missed one ESP252 class throughout the semester. It's interesting because I have missed all of my other classes at least once this year. I felt like I was held to such a high standard in your class that it just didn't feel right to miss. In addition to that aspect, I also felt that this was genuinely valuable. It seemed almost every class I learned something that I could apply to my business or my mindset. For every class, I made sure to pay great attention to what was being taught. I also did my best to be involved in every activity we did as a class. I didn't always say a lot or speak out, but trust me, I was still engaged. I'm just more introverted and quiet. In terms of MMG attendance, I was able to make every single meeting - if you count having to Zoom in for one of the meetings as being present.

Here are some of the things I believe I did well with attendance:

1. Showing up to class early with a ready to learn mindset
2. Paying attention to everything that was being taught
3. Making sure I was there for my MMG group and being involved in all our activities

Here are some of the things I believe I should work on with attendance:

1. Speaking up more and sharing my thoughts in class → silencing the VOJ
2. During group activities, sharing ideas with the group → being more of a leader and not taking the backseat
3. Thinking about class concepts in a more creative way, rather than taking in everything as black and white

Final Grade: 3/4 - I showed up and was also paying attention, but I just could have engaged more with the class. Sharing ideas and thoughts more.

Participation:

I can say that every class period, there were new things I learned. I started to notice that the things I was learning had the chance to be life-changing - that is, if I actually implemented them. I can say that my business has been affected in a positive way by the materials learned, as well as my mindset. Every class period, I would try to relate your teachings to my business. That is why most of the applications you see in the portfolio are centered around that. The ideation tools helped me generate new concepts for my software, and the leadership skills helped me break away from my typically more reserved self.

Here are some of the things I believe I did well with participation:

1. Being very engaged with the course material in class and seeing how it relates to my life
2. Using acquired tools for my business/other parts of my life
3. Shifting my mindset and what I believed to be true based on your teachings

Here are some of the things I believe I should work on with participation:

1. Not being afraid or scared that my idea is stupid - or what I have to share is dumb
2. Giving ideation tools my 100% effort → sometimes when I would try using certain tools on my business, I would half ass the process
3. Figuring out when to speak up and choosing to be a leader compared to a follower

Final Grade: 3.2/4 - I used so much of the teachings outside of my class and applied it to my business. Where I can improve is the class participation.

Deadlines:

I did not start the year off very hot for this category. I forgot the first assignment, which sent me into a panic. I wondered how I would complete all the other assignments when I had already missed the first one. That was a wake-up call, though, which I believe you did on purpose. After this, I was able to get in every single assignment - except for the resume, unfortunately. I had a close call with the C4 practice. I was on my way in the car parked at a dining hall when, at 11:55, I realized I hadn't submitted it. Everything else, though, I made sure to prepare ahead of time for or request an extension when necessary. I'm not gonna lie start of the year, my submissions were just boring. I was putting in the minimum amount of effort to get the assignment done. There was a turning point, though, where I wanted to change. I began actively trying to incorporate creativity into my project submissions. Mainly with presentation and delivery. I feel there is a night and day difference between work at the start of class and towards the end.

Here are some of the things I believe I did well with deadlines:

1. Getting 95% of things in on time
2. Realizing I needed to put more effort into my submissions
3. Picking spots to be more creative
4. Not procrastinating - working multiple days in advance of the deadline

Here are some of the things I believe I should work on with deadlines:

1. Not just submitting work to submit it. → make sure it's quality
2. Try enjoying the process more.
3. Look for more creative ways to display work → don't feel weird about implementing novel ideas

Final Grade: 3/4 - I was able to bet everything in mostly on time and was great with time management. I need to work on the quality of my submissions, though, and be more creative.

Communication

My communication started off pretty poorly. Starting off the semester, I was super held back by being too introverted. I thought I could just get everything done on my own. Through the mindsets and your teachings, I was able to become more outgoing. I realized the importance of networking and working with others. This was the sole reason why I went to my first-ever networking event. In terms of my emails, they started off poorly as well. No personality whatsoever. I remember my first email having no greeting or closing and just answering the syllabus questions. As we progressed through the semester, I started having a lot of fun with my emails. Adding jokes and just overall a less serious tone. I still have to learn to be more social, though.

Here are some of the things I believe I did well with communication:

1. Branching out and talking to new people
2. Networking with other business people/mentors
3. Asking others for ideas/feedback → especially with my business

Here are some of the things I believe I should work on with communication:

1. Being too closed off sometimes
2. Thinking I can do everything on my own
3. Following up with connections I have made through networking

Final Grade: 3.2/4 - In terms of sheer improvement, this topic takes the cake. I have really become more outgoing and have made a lot of business connections because of it. I still need to understand that I don't always have all the answers and can ask others for help.

Final Statement:

I just wanna say thank you for everything. My life has changed since learning a lot of the stuff in your class. Even though I'm not good at showing it, I'm very appreciative. The creativity tools were great, but the mindset teaching was more important to me. The most important thing you said in class was "Are you putting yourself in the greatest position to succeed?". At the time, I wasn't. I wasn't seeing any progress with my goals and it was due to inaction. After that moment, I have made a pledge to myself to apply my 100% best effort to my business and do everything I can to help it succeed. Which means even the things that take me way out of my comfort zone, like that networking event.