

## Charles Richardson Reflection Report

Over the past 6 weeks, my peers and I explored the boundary of human creativity. We tasked ourselves with finding an unthought-of solution to the problem associated with waste. Preserving full transparency, I admit that the first few weeks were very slow. Interviews were lousy, conclusions were vague and blurry, and the team was not bonding well. The project was a class-time-only project.

Most of the time spent on this project was done in class. Apart from interviews and assignment submissions, the strategy of attacking this class head-on was not executed well. I took a lot of responsibility upon myself at the beginning of summer and learned that my time was not allocated correctly when I couldn't live up to the commitments of this class.

On a positive note, my teammates helped me stay motivated. We had an iMessage group chat that was bustling with conversations at least twice a week. Haley did a good job of managing the content (Ex. Powerpoints), whereas Marcus helped with idea development and idea bouncing.

A particular moment that got the team rolling strong was about a week from the last day of class, Haley called out the team for not working together on the mission, it was then that we really stepped up the work. We had complete ideas within a few days and then started to develop them for a pitch. We decided to go with RuCycle, my idea, because it was clear that it was the most feasible, the team members did a great job of helping me prepare for the presentation.

On presentation day, I was feeling slightly underprepared. I didn't have my note card ready, so I reviewed the highlights and sent the presentation semi-cold. Haley lined up the presentation, but without helping her, I was a bit lost on the ordering. Fortunately, I made it work and sensed a pretty moderate positive feel from the room. I did not get any questions or comments on the idea, but considering it already exists in the market, there are a lot of lessons to learn from the existing companies that are likely not visible from inside a classroom setting. I noticed that one classmate, Carlos, resonated with this more than the others. I know Carlos does solar panel installations for work, so I assume he knows a thing or two about construction and could appreciate the idea more than the rest of the class was able to. The positive feel I got from the room, and most importantly Carlos, gave me confidence that this idea has some potential to pitch to a bigger, more educated and worthwhile crowd. With a little more preparation of course.

Throughout this developmental process. The team wore many shoes. First we were deep thinkers, then we became interviewers, then we pivoted to the position of analyst, after that we tackled designing, and finally we attempted public speaking. This project taught not only myself but all of my classmates the fundamentals of being an entrepreneur and a creator. It brought the creative side out of us and challenged us to think differently. Real-world applications of this are not much different than they were in

the classroom. Thinking, asking, designing, testing, presenting, repeat. The Creators Loop.

I have read many books on presenting to groups. While I did not live up to the quality of my education, I know what I did wrong. The lack of preparation was the root cause of all the issues. Therefore, I will be applying this insight to other areas to make sure I do not make the same mistake that I did this semester, particularly with my classes.

On a positive note, I was able to test my ideas and get credits in return. I felt like this class helped mature me to the realities behind idea development. On a negative note, I was not able to test more ideas. I have a note with all of the ideas I have come up with over the past 2 years, and the past 5 weeks have been my most active trending period on this idea note since it has been created, this shows me that the class was time well spent. Going into this class, I had the idea that it would be the incubator for a business idea that I would pursue. I soon realized that my plate was too loaded and that I was not ready to start a business yet from a mental and time management point of view. Therefore, the outcome of this class was not what I would have expected, but I also know I have very high expectations of myself, and often fall short of very ambitious goals. In my own eyes, if I shoot for the stars and fall somewhat short, at least I've gotten off the ground.

In conclusion, I have found this class to be a very positive experience for my development and a worthwhile expenditure of my time on my journey through life. There were many moments where I did not give the class my 100%, but in the end, everything worked out. I did what I did, and I learned from my mistakes, which were already highlighted. So if I could go back and redo the class, I would definitely dedicate more time and effort to it. Potentially developing the entrepreneur attitude I was looking to get by the end of the class. The experience in this class really showed me the consequences of my priorities. A lack of performance is a direct result of a lack of preparation in this case, in the future, I will be better at aligning my priorities. The one question I would ask myself is this: how consistent can I be once I set my mind to a goal? This is a hard issue for me that I noticed is most successful in the area of fitness. I am very fit on a consistent basis. I have been searching for the discrepancy between my motivation for fitness and the lack thereof in others areas. This is what I need to discover to learn what I must change to improve my development.