**Step 1: Read the PHP PDO Documentation**

* **Purpose:** Gain foundational knowledge about PHP PDO, its purpose, and key features.
* **Action Item:** Intern should read the following sections of the PHP PDO Documentation:
  + [PHP PDO Overview](https://www.php.net/manual/en/book.pdo.php): Explains what PDO is and why it is used.
  + [PHP PDO Prepared Statements](https://www.php.net/manual/en/pdo.prepared-statements.php): Learn about using prepared statements for secure database operations.
* **What to Focus On:**
  + The **advantages of PDO** (cross-database compatibility, prepared statements, and flexible fetch modes).
  + The structure of **prepared statements** in PDO compared to traditional MySQL queries.

**Step 2: Watch a Short Introductory Video**

* **Purpose:** Visualize how to use PHP PDO in a practical context.
* **Video Resource:**
  + [PHP PDO Crash Course for Beginners](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VVn9OG9nfH0) – A short video (~15 minutes) covering the basics of connecting to a MySQL database with PDO, executing queries, and using prepared statements.
* **Key Takeaways:**
  + How to connect to a database using PDO.
  + How to use **prepared statements** to safely execute SQL queries.
  + The differences between procedural MySQLi and object-oriented PDO.

**Step 3: Research and Compare MySQLi vs PDO**

* **Purpose:** Understand the key differences between **MySQLi** and **PDO**, and why PDO is preferred for future-proofing projects.
* **Action Item:**
  + Intern should research and write a short comparison of **MySQLi** vs **PDO**, focusing on:
    - Database support (MySQLi supports only MySQL, while PDO supports many databases).
    - Error handling (PDO's exception handling vs MySQLi's manual error checking).
    - Object-oriented structure in PDO vs MySQLi’s mix of procedural and OOP styles.
    - Prepared statements in both.
* **Suggested Reading:**
  + <https://phpdelusions.net/pdo/mysql_vs_mysqli>
  + An article outlining the key differences.

**Deliverables:**

1. **Summary Report:** Intern should submit a short summary (1-2 pages) covering:
   * The basics of PDO from the documentation.
   * Key differences between PDO and MySQLi.
   * Why PDO is commonly used in modern PHP applications.