

## Final Reflection

### Project Title

Humanities First Intern-Mentor

### Reflection

Serving as an intern-mentor with the Humanities First program has been an unforgettable experience. Some of the main highlights included outreach to alumni to be spotlighted on the program website, building on friendships from last year with my cohort, and helping to plan and facilitate the very first Humanities First Career Panel in early March!

I came into this intern-mentor program looking for ways to deepen my engagement with the humanities major community and use what I learned last year in the program to support new freshmen. I had a very specific career-oriented goal to gain experience related to education and mentoring, as well as professional writing, when I began serving as an intern-mentor last fall. However, looking back over the past year, I feel that I have gained a more general skill set that I can take into any career field.

One major lesson I took away centered around what it looks like to take initiative. I found myself challenged and surprised at first by the flexibility and lack of rigid expectations in the intern-mentor experience, where students take the lead on originating ideas and working to make them come to fruition. When I started coming prepared with ideas, even if very roughly formed, I learned that I was able to engage much better with my cohort and learn to be an active participant rather than a passive listener, which I believe is more of my natural personality. I also learned, through taking the lead on the Humanities First Career Panel, that good servant-leadership involves delegating tasks fairly and equitably, and having the humility to see that my way is not necessarily the best or right way. I struggled with clearly communicating what we needed to get done without sending everyone in my cohort long messages in Discord, which was our main communication platform, and putting out a call for help with certain tasks without knowing who would take up the call. I learned that I tend to want to do everything myself, but that when I do that it cheats others out of making our collective endeavor as rewarding and worthwhile as it can be.

Ultimately, the Career Panel went smoothly and well because it was the product of many hands that went into its success, from designing an advertisement flyer and posting them all around campus to brainstorming questions to taking turns moderating the panel discussion. I feel that taking the lead on planning this panel came at the right time for me in my own personal journey of learning how to event-plan as well, as I had just seen my fellow committee members in the Honors Peer Mentoring Program successfully plan and organize their own career panel. Later in the year, I led a panel for the Society of Professional Journalists, UW chapter, another RSO where I am an officer. There are many moving parts to planning and leading a panel, and I specifically gained confidence in writing professional emails inviting panelists, coordinating a date and time for the event, planning ahead for technology considerations, and structuring the actual discussion and Q&A. It was truly a milestone for me personally and professionally and I'm so grateful to have had the opportunity to help run it.

I hope that this project and experience has helped increase the visibility of the Humanities First program through our advertising of the career panel across campus and our contributions to the program's alumni outreach and social media campaigns. I also hope that the career panel specifically helped students outside of the program to see that studying the humanities can indeed lead to fulfilling and exciting careers.

Moving forward, this program has given me the invaluable lesson that what you put in to something is what you get out. The Humanities First program itself covers such a broad spectrum of disciplines and ways of thinking, and this year continuing on to Humanities Next has truly shown me that it is the career-transferable skills that you get out of working with humanities majors and faculty that makes participating in programs like these so valuable - as long as you take the initiative to seek them out.

### Submitted on

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