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ISM 3A

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Time's Up

Weekly Report 1/9 - 1/15

There are times in the lives of many students in which they begin to question the choices that they make when deciding the classes that they want to take. This could happen at any time, whether that is the shift from the first to second semester, when their grades began to suffer, or when they are awake through the early hours of the morning in order to complete a task that they had not previously realized required such an immense amount of effort and precision. As I struggle to keep my eyes open while typing my final weekly report before the Research Showcase, my moment of questioning has come. I do not intend to question or criticize the ISM program. However, I do intend to question myself.

As I have been working through the long weekend to complete my original work, presentation board, and now weekly report, I have continuously asked myself for reasons that I have remained in the ISM program. If I am going to have to give up free time in order to complete school work, is the course truly worth it? If I am going to stay up late into the night, is this a program that is appropriate for me? Over the course of the weekend, I have finally decided on a finalized answer to these questions: yes. Although Independent Study and Mentorship is a very demanding and challenging class, it has opened my eyes to the demands and requirements

of the real world, as no other class has done for me before. Despite my spending what would otherwise be 'free time' doing class assignments or projects, I have found that because I am studying the topic of my choice, I no longer see this as work, but rather an opportunity for me to explore and better understand the field that I hope to one day be a part of. Because of the ISM program, I have solidified my future plans, as I am certain of the degree and certification plans that I will follow in order to become an elementary school teacher, as well as the exact level of education that I am passionate about working with. If I had reached the decision to not continue my journey through the ISM program, I would not have had the aforementioned opportunities.

Although ISM has presented a great amount of experiences and growth for both myself and others, it has also presented challenges. Take right now, for example. For the majority of the long weekend, I have spent my time creating letters, papers, and decorations for my presentation poster, attempting to ensure that it was perfectly pieced together, with a minimal amount of flaws. While I am very proud and happy with the end result, I am also disappointed, as I did not pause and take the time to reflect specifically on what I was doing, as well as to complete a short weekly report. Because of this, I was not able to fully appreciate the fact that I was creating a professional presentation for the first time. This also resulted in my staying up late in the night, while at the same time running the risk of turning the first daily grade of the new semester in late. As I continue in my ISM journey through the new semester, I plan to remain focused on my class assignments, but to also be sure that I take an opportunity to stop and look around, so that I do not miss what is happening in my surroundings. I plan to stay on top of my work, while at the same time allowing myself to relax. This will allow a much healthier outlook on my education, and will allow me to enjoy the course much more.