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ISM 3A

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Moving Targets

Weekly Report 10/10 - 10/14

Deadlines. Defined by Oxford Dictionary as ‘the latest time or date by which something should be completed,’ the importance of deadlines has been engrained in the minds of students since the time that their education began. The coloring sheet in kindergarten. The simple multiplication worksheet in third grade. The script of the play they had written in seventh grade. And finally, the digital and physical portfolio that was to be due in ISM. Students in the program had been previously informed that their next large assignment would be both the digital portfolio, as well as the physical binder containing all works written thus far in the school year, due this past week. In preparation (or a lack thereof, depending on the perspective of a bystander) for the nearing due date, I worked on my assignment far into the early hours of morning in order to ensure that my portfolios were both professional and clean, while maintaining a sort of voice, rather than being deadpan and lacking any life. I had been aware that time would be provided provided during class, with the assignment being due by the time that the bell rang. Because I was nearly finished, I only needed to add a few finishing touches to both the binder and the website, I felt very confident and proud of myself and the fact that I had used my time to complete the majority of the large project before class time. However, when it came time to begin working in class, I was very disappointed. I learned that my loss of sleep the

previous night and my abundance of hard work would ultimately not pay off, because the deadline of the assignment had been changed. The target that I had worked so hard to achieve had been moved back another week. Although I was extremely disappointed, I realized that I was at a great advantage, as I had most of my work done with only small additions and changes needed, meaning that I had more time to complete other assignments such as the interview and research assessments, rather than focusing mainly on the portfolios and having a great amount of stress added to my daily routine. Reflecting on this experience now, I am glad that I was prepared to turn in my portfolios on the day that they were intended to be due.

Aside from this experience in the past week, there was also an additional amount of stress added by the nearing deadline of the fourth research assessment of the year, as well as the first interview assessment. These both were to be due on Friday; however, due to both the football game and the homecoming dance on Friday and Saturday night, these due dates were pushed back as well, to Sunday evening at 5:55. While this did relieve some stress, I was forced to attempt to finish both assignments on Saturday still, because I spend the majority of my Sundays attending and helping at church.

Ultimately, the movement of due dates proved to be helpful as it provided more time to perfect assignments; however, my goal for myself is to complete all assignments by the original due dates provided, so that I may remain on top of my work, rather than falling farther behind.