

Weekly Report 6  
9/24 - 9/30

### Good Verse Bad

This week in ISM goals were not met. Cold calls began and went poorly. I attempted to contact two people in the first day, and I did not hear from one and was denied by the other. This is extremely challenging because there are limited service dog training companies in North Texas to attempt to get interviews with and being denied makes that difficult.

To combat these challenges more phone calls will be made in order to finally get an interview. Cold calling will improve as more are made, because at the beginning there are more nerves. Also, the mentor/interview search is going to be expanded onto different types of dog trainers including: K9 police trainers, drug dogs, and pet trainers. This will hopefully allow for more information about trainers to be learned as well as building more connections outside of just service dog trainers. It has been a struggle to foster and facilitate these connections that goal is to be able to find a mentor within the next month. In order to get there, three interviews must be scheduled and conducted. The company I am hoping to find a mentor with is IDEA service dogs as they are doing to type of work that is most closely related to the research being done.

I have been able to improve on other things, such as my research by not procrastinating on writing each assessment. The quality of the research texts has also been improved allowing for more in-depth research that is beyond the surface level. This improvement will aid in knowing more information about the topic for the interviews. This, in turn, will hopefully impress the professionals as they see I am knowledgeable about their jobs and would like to pursue it in the future. However, as the field of the professionals being contacted expands, so more information needs to be discovered regarding those topics. Improvements have also been made in confidence of skills. Fear is no longer something that is a factor in the work as I have already been rejected. Lack of fear will aid in the class and the future as worries become more limited. This allows more reliance and trust on skills that have been practiced.

Overall, there is still an abundance of skills that need to be improved on or created, but a solid foundation has been laid to create an aura of professionalism even as a high school student. The next step in the continued research and internships toward original work and seeing if this is really something that can be done for the future.