

My Engineering Class

Well I came into my Freshman already knowing that I wanted to be an Engineer when I grew up. However, over the course of the year, my desire has changed and I now wish to be a Special Ed teacher, or I want to get into Criminology. This year has been beneficial to me, for it has pushed me, it has made me think about topics I normally don't think about, and it has made me more of a team player.

Homework is something I have always done in this class. Doing my homework always seemed to help me when it came to the subject, sadly I always seemed to do horrible on my tests. No matter how hard I studied for a test, it always seemed like I was studying for the wrong subject. For example, in the Atmosphere test, I did very well the first two pages, but the last two pages I only got 2 or 3 points. This is because it seemed like I didn't learn about it, and it all seemed foreign to me. The only down side in this class for me was my tests, other than that I did ok.

This year's trimester we learned about Atmospheric and Alternative energy. Atmospheric had to deal with the layers of the atmosphere. The atmosphere contains the troposphere, stratosphere, and thermosphere. The higher you go the more thinner air becomes, this makes it harder to breath.

In this topic we learned about temperature, and heat. These are two different things, for temperature is the measure of how rapidly or slowly molecules move and heat is the transfer of energy that takes place of the temperature differences. Temperature can be measured by Fahrenheit, Celsius, or kelvins, but here in the United States it is measured in Fahrenheit. Any other place would be measured in Celsius, usually. We

always learned about a Temperature Inversion, which is an increase in temperature with height in an atmospheric layer. Air pollution can worsen a temperature inversion.

Meteorology, is the study of atmospheric phenomena. This was my favorite part of the trimester. Some of the labs we did were the Balloon Inflation Lab and the Pressure Measurement Lab.

The balloon inflation lab had its purpose and its purpose was to see how much pressure could be inserted into a balloon until it popped. We had groups of 4 and each team player had to help by adding 2mL of air, we went up until the balloon had 50mL of air , then we measured the air pressure in the balloon. Next we deflated the balloon, and then added 50mL of air each time, until the balloon popped.

The pressure measurement lab was all about measuring the inside and outside pressure of a contained area. We added volume and subtracted volume. Then measured the air pressure.

Labs like these helped me become more of a team player. Sometimes we didn't really know what to do, but we gave each other options and choices about what we were suppose to do. We usually ended up doing good on the lab. I would say the hardest lab I did was the Big Balloon one. That lab taught me that I can't rely on others that much. My team really didn't do as they promised, and they never did the assigned homework, nobody seemed to do it because they were to lazy. In that lab it seemed only two people were trying to help, out of the four lab partners. This type of effort made us fail this project. Our balloon didn't even go 100 feet, that is how pathetic it was. I was very disappointed in my team, I felt so ashamed and embarrassed. Everyone else did so well, and we were literally the only ones who did bad.

I wanted to work with a new set of people, because I always got off track with those people, so I moved seats and sat next to Daniel, who is a very smart kid. When I did not understand something, he knew just how to explain it to me and vice-versa. Ever since I have sat next to Daniel, I've been able to focus more and I've done very well on my labs. I'm surrounded by very smart kids, and it just makes the class more exciting when everyone knows what they are doing. Things went more with the flow, and things got done sooner. You were able to check your work, and this really helped me. I was able to double-check my data, and make sure it was accurate. One HUGE thing I learned, was to not to procrastinate. Things were just made harder if you put things off. I learned how to manage my classes and the homework I was given. I trained myself to stay up till everything was done. I proved to myself that I could get anything done if I put my mind to it. I always thought everything was so hard, so I usually gave up, but this class challenged me and I pushed myself because I wanted to do well. I wanted to prove something to myself and I did. Soccer has always been a big part of my life, and I was told I had to do well in school in order to play. This, of course pushed me even more to do well. I'm proud of myself and I plan to do a lot more in my lifetime.

I don't plan on stopping here with this class, I plan on taking Mechatronics next year. Even though I don't wish to be a an Engineer anymore, I would still enjoy the hands-on experience. I really don't like learning out of a book, unless it's really necessary. My goals in life are to graduate from high school, and be accepted into a four-year university. These types of classes will look good on my resume for college, it will show that I'm interested in science and math. Overall I've enjoyed this class, with my fellow peers. I agree with my mother who said this class is a challenge for me, one that

would make think, explore and be happy with my accomplishments as well as make me a better student.