

Introduction to Engineering

The first in series of three classes the introduction to engineering class taught by Mr. Kilewer, taught us, as a class, how to be part of the solution, not the problem. This exciting and challenging class uses a variety of math, sciences, and engineering topics along with Earth science applications like alternative energy sources, fuel cells, and global change to help develop our important problem solving skills that will help us on our journey to success in high school, college, and our future. Even with only one year of this class under my belt I have already felt its benefits on my life inside and outside of school. It has helped me to become way more organized and efficient in my work, it has helped me work more effectively in terms of time, and it has helped me gain confidence in myself and become a better team member and leader.

Throughout the year we have tackled many topics and projects. The majority of the first trimester we learned how to break down a project and learned how to write and support a thesis. The first part of the class was basically a stepping stone for the rest of the class, it set us up on how to do major projects by organizing our thoughts and creating a well written purpose, thesis, and conclusion all necessary aspects in doing a lab or a

project without a purpose the project is pointless and the data means nothing. If there is no thesis no one will know what you are trying to achieve by doing the lab, or project, and if there is no conclusion it won' t explain what the data means. Learning how to write a well written purpose, thesis, and conclusion is necessary to completing the projects we had to do, like the hot-air balloon project, and the bridge project.

The bridge project was the first big group project. It was done in groups of two and we had to build a bridge out of straws and pipe cleaners that had to be two inches wide with a one inch diameter hole cut in the center of the road, other than that you had to come up with your own idea and support it by stating its strengths and weaknesses where the stresses would be, where the expected fail point would be, and a full scale drawing of it with exact specifications of how many pieces of straw and pipe cleaner you needed. This project was the first where we had to come up with the design and say how much material it would need, not going over our said amount it. The Hot Air Balloon Engineering Project we had to design and build our own balloon in groups of four. The Balloon engineering project was the major project of the year we combined everything we learned to complete it. The balloon project was to build and fly a balloon to our specifications according to size, weight, and

it' s mass along with its predicted lift. The balloon engineering project is a great way to experience some of the thing engineers have to do when in the process of completing a project.

The biggest benefit for me coming out of this class is the chance to work with different people in groups that you don' t necessarily get to pick. Once out of school and working at a job you can' t pick the people you get to work with sometimes you will get along and sometimes you won' t through this experience in doing group projects I learned how to deal with people I don' t necessarily get along with and it will continue to help me all throughout life, whether or not in a job environment. Another benefit I got from this class was a greater understanding on how to manage time and plan ahead of things and how important it is to not put things off till the last minute. The balloon project help me realize this because I ended up having to take the project home to build the balloon by myself with some help from my parents, as a group we didn' t manage time well and got behind and I was the one who had to make up the work, it took me from about three thirty pm to about one thirty am to finish that project and looking back I realized how important it was for me to learn not to put thing of now rather than later.

Completing this class will help me in the long run by remembering the lessons learned and hopefully not repeating the mistakes I made like putting it off till the last day. It will help me in my job because I learned how to deal with people even if you don't get along. This class has especially grown my critical thinking skills which will help me to figure things out that are not obvious. In life the answers aren't given to you, you have to go and critically think to find them. While I haven't really thought what I want to do in my future I think the problem solving skills and learning how to work with different personalities will set me up to do any job I strive to do. This class will give me a glimpse of the type of courses I might have in college and it gives me a better understanding on how to prepare for these courses in my future

Overall Introduction to Engineering is a good class to take, it will help you build your problem solving skills, it will help you work with all kinds of different personalities, it will help you manage time better, and it will give you the skills to succeed in any type of job you wish to do in your future. Even when you think a project can't be done your problem solving skills you achieve will help you get through it and accomplish the task at hand.