

End of the Year Essay

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Per. 3

This year has been full of very educational and meaningful events. Even though limited to one major project this year, there are many needed techniques for the completion of it. Time management, team organization, and communication are all key factors to completing this project. Here are some of the fun things that we have accomplished so far in this exciting 1st semester.

To start out we began our exciting year by first applying to a Lemelson MIT Grant Proposal. The main objective of this Proposal was to find a local problem and address it a way that we could help improve the problem. After addressing the problem we were to brainstorm an invention that we could create, funded by MIT. The brainstorming of this invention was time consuming and critical just as much as the project itself. We had to find a problem that had not yet been addressed, however a common problem for our area.

Each student was to come up with possible local problems. Then we all put our heads together and narrowed it down to what we all thought was the most recent current problem. We then looked more into that problem, which as a class we choose water quality. We were each assigned one part of the needed materials, for example I did cell phone data networking. We were to make presentations of our research to the fellow classmates. This was just the beginning to the Lemelson MIT Grant Proposal.

After finding a local problem we were to write the actual proposal. This consisted of a lot of important features. We needed a narrative, an estimated budget of what we thought our project was going to cost, a in depth design brief, the responsibilities of each

person and the responsibilities we were going to be faced with, and a list of students and resources.

After a lot of hard work and researching we finally finished our Proposal and of to MIT it went. With everyone from Endeavour anticipating the outcome of our proposal it finally came in. We were selected, 1 of 10 schools, the only from California, to be part of the InvenTeam. This is now our main project of the year and we are currently working on experimentation.

During the MIT project we have also been learning about microcontrollers and analog digital. This is not only for the sake of having fun while learning this and for our knowledge, but it is also for our MIT project. After researching we found that the best way to control our remote water quality unit will to be through a microcontroller or a Basic Stamp. So the learning of these are critical to everyone, however extremely important to our communications group. This is critical to them especially because they are in charge of how the device itself will communicate with the sensors and base station.

Our school seems to be very interested in our accomplishment and even more interested now that we have stated it not only to the people who want to know about it but people that had no clue of it. We did this by presenting, a well thought out power point presentation, to our school board. We summed up all of our efforts and hard work and explained to them how great of an opportunity this is for us as high school students. They were interested enough to ask us to return sometime and inform them on our progress on the project and how things are going in the present time of the presentation.

All of our accomplishments of this year have been a great benefit for everyone that is participating in the InvenTeam, but mostly for us students in the Team. We have

had to learn how to adapt to things we are unfamiliar with and if we are unaware of them we must learn them. For example, one of my jobs is the web site maintenance. I am in charge of keeping the site up-to-date and fun for the viewers. However before I had taken on this job for the class I only had basic knowledge of web site creation and have had to learn a lot of new things in order to get the site the way we wanted it to look. Even though very challenging I really like having to do this, it's good lesson to me and the other students who are faced with the same situation.

This is a great thing for each of the Team members because this will look tremendously good on our application. We are also getting special recognition from MIT if we were to apply to MIT. Being in the class not only offers special recognition to MIT from our Grant Proposal but we also are receiving special recognition from Cal Poly when we have completed the Endeavour Academy. Having these recognitions to these schools could easily determine where I end up in my future. If this project is taken really far and we get it patented and published on the market it could also prove very useful to everyone who contributed to the InvenTeam.

Through this project we have also made a lot of good resources. Applied Technologies, which we had the pleasure of taking a tour of, sees this as a wonderful experience and is very impressed of our accomplishments. We have also had donations from some companies to aid us along our way. Many companies have been following us, including the paper, and we plan to keep them involved and make others aware and involved.

This has been a really fun year for me. It has taught me responsibility and how my actions affect the rest of my team and how far they get. I can't wait to see the

outcome of this project and the road blocks that we must overcome along the way. I'm open to learning new things and look forward to seeing what those things are going to be. I hope that there are more high school students that attend our school will be faced with an opportunity like this in the future.