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### Reflection #1

Prior to starting my internship, I was unsure of what to expect. I have worked in many a career field, but none as unique and intimidating as the federal government. Working within the government essentially enlists you as a public servant, and the impact of your decisions reverberate far beyond your immediate sphere of influence.

The first 50 hours of this experience have been focused on orienting and networking. At first I was hesitant and questioned the necessity of spending such a large portion of time focused on these topics, but I quickly realized just how beneficial taking this time was. Although there was no direct contribution during these initial 50 hours towards my learning objectives, I would argue that the benefit of this time will indirectly facilitate achieving these goals.

The federal government is full of unique and proprietary nomenclature, operating procedures, and acronyms that one would not typically have need for. When beginning this internship, the orientation team took a significant amount of time to break down not only the meaning of these methodologies, but why they are important. For instance, the importance of information classification determines the potential damage to the security of the nation.

In addition to this, during the orientation we were frequently reminded of the importance of networking, and we were provided with numerous opportunities to do so. Taking the time to decompress and speak to others in the internship cohort allowed me to secure numerous

connections with interns with varying fields and interests that I don't think I would have made otherwise.