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Reflection #1

Internship Reflection Paper

First 50 Hours

Working as an intern on the Place4us platform for 50 hours has given me valuable insight from transitioning from an academic learning environment into a professional, collaborative workspace. During these first 50 hours I have learned that real-world projects do not just rely on finding the answers immediately but on the importance of asking questions and communicating with my other teammates. At the beginning of the internship, I spent most of my time familiarizing myself with the platform and its purpose. Although these past couple weeks have felt slow at times, it helped me adjust myself to work through future tasks.

One of the realizations I had in the beginning was that asking questions is not a sign of weaknesses in a professional environment. At first, I hesitated to ask what I thought of as dumb questions, but the other interns were very supportive, and we all had questions on how to navigate this internship. This experience showed me how effective teamwork depends on communication and mutual support. Instead of working by myself, working with other interns helped me understand the platform in a better way.

The value of communication and adaptability are the most important things I've learned. Communication played a big role in meetings where everyone contributed ideas to improve the Place4us platform. Listening to all the different perspectives has helped me understand the importance of group input that could not only help our supervisor but the other interns. This input also leads to a better design and functionality decisions for the platform.

In addition to the work on the platform itself, the internship has helped me develop a better understanding of professional project planning. From the feedback I have received from the supervisor, I have learned the need to create a structured work plan with clear deliverables and milestones. This concept is new to me, as academic assignments are often outlined from the start. This internship emphasized that professionals must define goals, timelines, and responsibilities. Communicating with the other interns, we have created shared notes and coordinated tasks.

Overall, the first 50 hours have been a period of adjustment, learning, and personal growth. While the workload was not always intense, the experience was valuable in helping me understand how I fit into a professional group setting. I have become more confident in communicating with teammates, more comfortable asking questions, and more aware of the expectations that come with professional work.

The weekly reports in the internships reflect on my progress. In the early reflections, I was focused on understanding the platform and settling into the team. In later reports I show increased engagement with technical task, planning, and critical thinking. I aim to continue building these experiences by refining my technical skills and applying the professional practices I have learned so far.

