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Reflection Paper 1

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Internship Reflection Paper

The first 50 Hours

My first week in my internship was nothing like I expected. I was not at my office location but rather, on a business trip up to New York City, our Orientation. The work for this internship started before I had even left to go to New York. Luckily ahead of the trip, our internship leaders gave all 30, or so, of us a contact sheet with all of the Interns' contact information and their office location. It was while looking at this sheet that I came to the realization that there was only 1 other intern coming to the Wilmington Office, in Delaware with me. I had to start networking and creating connections almost immediately. I had to build up some nerves to reach out to the other intern, Olivia D, to introduce myself. When she responded back to me about a week later, I was elated. We talked about the upcoming New York trip, and made plans to meet in person to try and get to know each other to help elevate any nerves, and just have one person we know walking into our Orientation. That is when I learned my first lesson of my internship. That I have to be willing to put myself out there in order to create and establish connections.

Once arriving in New York, I realized very quickly that there were far more than 30 Audit interns present at this Orientation. In fact, there were over 1,500 interns. It was an Orientation for all of the Bank of America summer intern employees. The first challenge the interns had to conquer was the check-in and lunch time event. Olivia and I met up and proceeded to navigate our way through the bustling streets of New York to find the Hotel with the check-in event. After checking in, Olivia thought we should find an empty table and just sit by ourselves. I knew from my experiences at greek life conferences that we just needed to rip the band-aid off and sit down at a table with open seats. Luckily everyone at that table was just as nervous as we were. From that one table sitting we acquired a few connections, including one woman from the Global Strategies and Operations team, who told me there were only 5 of them. It was at that table, we all made goals for the week. Olivia was to find one other intern from any department going to the Delaware Office. Mine was to figure out where I fit into this internship. After check-in it was time to unpack and explore before heading to dinner, which again consisted of a big room, and a lot of faces that I had yet to learn the name of. It was after I sat down at a table of strangers and introduced myself that I realized my second lesson for the week. I needed to learn to be comfortable in the uncomfortable.

The next days thereafter consisted of early morning networking sessions, and learning about the company and the business of Bank of America. We had huge auditorium lectures for 4-5 hours towards the end of the day where the agenda spanned anywhere from Mental Health and work life balance, to getting a Financial Market Update from the head analyst and strategist for the New York Office. I was able to find a camaraderie with my Audit Intern group with the realization that none of us had any idea what Audit really was or what we were going to be doing over the course of our 10 week program.

The last day every intern group split up from each other and went to a specific training just for our positions. It was in this five hour lecture that I realized I still had no idea what I was doing, but the nice thing was that no one else did too. During this training, I asked many questions, probably too many questions, and ended up speaking with our trainer at the end of the training. She told me that although I did not feel like I had a good grasp of the concept, she could tell by my inquisitions that I was at least taking the time to learn and comprehend.

As I boarded the train to head back to Delaware, I looked back on my orientation, originally feeling like I did not accomplish my goal of finding out what I was doing in my internship. This is when I found out my third big lesson for the week, goals are all a matter of perspective. While I may not have figured out what exactly Auditing is or where I fit in the area, I was able to see where I may be able to fit into the company. While Olivia and I may not have found other Delaware Interns, we walked out of Orientation with connections from all over the company. While the first week in New York has come to a close, I am excited to finally get to the Wilmington office with my newfound lessons and put them to work.