

Entrepreneurship Reflection: My Journey This Semester

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At the beginning of this course, I anticipated that it would primarily focus on money management and the fundamentals of starting a business. While I already had experience running my braiding hair business, I lacked confidence in my ability to grow it effectively. I wasn't sure how to promote my services or make the best use of the resources and platforms available to me. My personal goal for this class was to gain the knowledge and skills needed to address these uncertainties and to apply what I learned to both my current business and future entrepreneurial endeavors. This motivation helped me approach the course with an open mind and a willingness to explore new strategies.

This course challenged me to express myself more openly and efficiently, pushing me to explore my potential as an entrepreneur on a deeper level. It encouraged me to reflect on my strengths and identify areas for growth, allowing me to see myself in a new light. While I always believed I had entrepreneurial skills, I lacked the confidence to use them effectively. Through activities such as writing a business proposal, crafting a leadership philosophy paper, and conducting a critical analysis of business failures, I developed a stronger sense of self-assurance and a clearer understanding of how to approach entrepreneurial challenges.

The critical analysis of business failures was particularly impactful. This exercise required me to identify what went wrong in real-world cases, analyze root causes, and propose solutions. It sharpened my problem-solving skills and gave me a deeper appreciation for the resilience and adaptability required in entrepreneurship. Writing a business proposal also pushed

me to think strategically, balancing creativity with practical planning to articulate a viable business idea.

As a result of these activities, my problem-solving, critical thinking, and research skills have improved significantly. I am now better equipped to approach challenges with confidence, develop innovative solutions, and present ideas effectively. These experiences not only enhanced my technical abilities but also built my overall confidence, which I can now apply to my current braiding hair business and future entrepreneurial ventures.

This semester presented significant challenges, as I was working full-time while taking 18 credits. Balancing my time between work, attending classes, completing homework, fulfilling my responsibilities as a big sister, and maintaining a social life was overwhelming at times. However, this experience taught me the importance of time management and resilience. I realized that if I put my mind to something, I can accomplish anything, even under challenging circumstances.

Within this course, the frequent research and writing assignments were particularly challenging for me. Writing is not something I naturally enjoy, as I tend to be concise in my thoughts and feel writing often requires more elaboration than I am accustomed to. Nevertheless, this course pushed me to improve in this area. While I can't say I love writing now, I do see its value, particularly in the context of entrepreneurship, where clear communication is essential.

The most difficult assignment for me was writing the business proposal. Having never written one before, I had to start from scratch—researching the necessary components, organizing my ideas, and ultimately pulling everything together into a cohesive document. Despite the difficulty, completing this assignment was one of my proudest accomplishments in the course. It not only challenged me but also equipped me with the confidence and skills to create a business proposal in the future with ease.

One key skill I improved this semester was learning to ask for help. In the past, people often pointed out that I struggled to seek assistance, but I have since become much better at it. For many of my projects and papers, I had two to five people read and provide input before submitting my final versions. This feedback not only improved the quality of my work but also reinforced the value of collaboration and the importance of different perspectives.

Before taking this course, I understood that being an entrepreneur was not an easy task, but I did not fully realize the extent of the work and dedication required to be successful. This course has given me a deeper appreciation for the complexity and commitment involved in entrepreneurship.

One significant shift in my perspective was my view on risk-taking. I used to think that taking risks as an entrepreneur was unnecessary and avoidable. However, this course helped me understand why taking calculated risks is essential for growth and innovation. Entrepreneurs must step out of their comfort zones to seize opportunities and create value in competitive markets.

Another important realization was the need to stay true to oneself and find balance in the entrepreneurial journey. It is easy to become consumed by the demands of building a business, but maintaining one's identity and well-being is vital for long-term success. Additionally, this course emphasized the importance of ethics and moral responsibility in business. Understanding the impact of ethical practices not only ensures the sustainability of a business but also builds trust and credibility with customers and the community.

These lessons have reshaped my understanding of entrepreneurship and prepared me to approach future endeavors with a stronger foundation and a clearer sense of purpose.