

Reflection Essay:

Jade's Reflection

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Abstract

This reflection essay will go over my skills and artifacts I have made over the year completing course work at Old Dominion University from August 2022 to present. This reflection comes from someone who came into Old Dominion University with no education in Cybersecurity beforehand to understand what is needed of me when joining the workforce. From making my first resume, to going to conferences to make connections with professionals. This portfolio reflection is for me and others to see what I have completed so far, and evidence of understanding.

Looking at a reflection from my work throughout the years and this class specifically, it has been a journey. When coming into college I had no goal with cyber since it was something so new and

no guidance from family as no one has touched any tech role. I came to know I wanted to try something new that was outside my comfort zone and interesting so that I would limit myself to getting “bored”. With Cyber, it is always something every single day. I learned quickly in Cyber that it is not only what you know; it is who you know; and if you are not doing anything outside of classes such as home labs or securing certifications, you are nothing. That may seem and sound dramatic, but it is the truth. When it came to writing my first resume and after going through peer reviews, that felt like an assignment itself. Resume building in Cyber is all about competition with recruiters looking at hundreds to thousands of applications, and you must hook them in the first 5 seconds to even be considered. You must put what is relevant and will catch the attention of a recruiter to get to the employers. Coming into Cyber, the main attention grabber they used to get us hooked is job availability and salaries.

Three years later it’s a whole different concept that everyone needs to fight just for entry jobs. While looking at my plan and the market, I do feel discouraged and dragging my feet to finish. My goals that I had planned were not met in the period I wanted. My certifications I told myself to get years ago, I have not accomplished. With trials and tribulation over time, the work still needs to be done and after graduation my life is just beginning. So, my goals shift with me as I complete my courses with hopes and dreams of success.

Knowing knowledge of interdisciplinary study before this class and reading sources that break down how it works, it has its beauty and shows exclusion to little pieces coming together to make one sub minor. Interdisciplinary is the combination of ideas and knowledge from one main point/ idea to make another. It’s the science of taking multiple fields and making one. Having technology as an add on plays a crucial role in research, law, ethics, communication, and innovation. In the entrepreneurial mindset, adding technology contributes to a data analyst role,

problem solving, and efficiency. Cybersecurity itself is an interdisciplinary study with psychology, law, economics, and most importantly soft skills. Many in Cybersecurity pursuing this career don't think or forget about the fact that soft skills are needed to service in technology.

Cybersecurity is not just able for someone behind a computer all day and night fighting off attackers or pen testing to find vulnerabilities. Cybersecurity is a business. You must be prepared for meetings most of the time to ensure everyone is on the same page rather than just with the cyber department, third parties, and more. Pen testers, with permission, hack into systems to find vulnerabilities for a business and must write up ways for that owner to understand in not just in a Cyber way but comprehend what needs to be done after the fact. When looking back at one of our readings "*What Color Is Your Parachute?*" When we had to define our traits, we had to make sure that they were transferable skills. We had to analyze these transferable skills as what could we use for job searching? Which skills can get you the job you'll love? What are these skills used for? Transferable skills are the foundation for jobs and careers; broken down into data, people, and things. When you have a prominent level of transferable skills, you shape your future for higher position jobs.

Using the information from "*What Color Is Your Parachute?*" and understanding how technology plays a role in the entrepreneurial mindset, interdisciplinary study is applied to my field in Cybersecurity and minors of Risk Management Insurance & Data Science, it shows and explains how psychology, reverse engineering, soft skills, and wisdom is needed in this interdisciplinary field. Even with transferable, prescriptive, and discretionary traits. Implementing transferable skills can show how flexible a person's skill can be, such as shown in "*What Color Is Your Parachute?*" We also need Prescriptive traits when it comes to needing strict standards so that there is no room for mistakes or having the requirements needed to get the job done and

accurate. Having a Discretionary approach is needed as well for adding everyone's opinions to make a discussion. Having options coming from different professional backgrounds can build flexibility to creation.