

Research Reflection

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With the project and class coming to an end, I have carefully considered all that I have learned from my partaking in this short but meaningful look at research. This small delve into the world of research reinforced my interest in my field, demonstrated the importance of peers in research, and granted me more humility when it came to academia.

Researching SOAP notes excited me at the beginning of my project because I am interested in attending medical school and, thus, eventually writing SOAP notes myself. The opportunity to take time and very methodically seek out information on SOAP notes was appealing to me, and I wanted to ensure that not only was my research full of information, but that I also learned a fair amount about these notes. Before this project, I had only ever heard the name and gotten a hint as to the general purpose. Now, I have a much deeper understanding of SOAP notes that will not only give me an edge in the future, but provide a springboard of curiosity into more medical documentation.

Something else I realized when writing this research project was the importance of peers in such a process. Reading “Proposals that Work” gave me an idea of how informal peer conversations and formal revisions can help aid a research project; however I had yet to firsthand experience the power of this. Through my assigned peer group, informal peer collaborations, and conversations during the research festival, I was able to gain a brief, albeit filtered through zoom, insight into the world of peer revision and peer collaboration in research. While brief, the peer interaction I got was far from meaningless, as I gained quite a bit of aid from them. Not only did peers go to help find my weak points and buffer my strong points, but peers helped to see my topic in a way and from a view that I could not have seen from. It was interesting, impressive, and just plain fun to be able to speak to peers in that way, and I look forward to any opportunities to do so in the future.

Finally, the project as a whole humbled me and demonstrated to me how vast and complicated the world of research can be. While I have only seen a small part of the research process – experiencing a very filtered version of what research is – I have learned that the body of information out there is vast. Not only were there many writings and papers on my specific topic, but there were writing on topics even more specific. This was even more impressive from my project, as I focused on a document that focuses on fieldwork rather than research, and yet there were plenty of guides and sources out there. This demonstrated to me not only the depth of the body of information itself, but how hard a researcher must strive to work when creating a literature review.

Ultimately, the project went to enhance the understanding of research I had been building throughout this class. I found that I am most proud of the fact that I was able to gain a general, “birds-eye” sense of my project and its implications rather than getting caught up in the details. I hope to eventually seek out more information and more writing like this to continue honing my skills and learning more.