

Original Work Assessment

Going into my Original Work, I was slightly skeptical of my abilities. My idea seemed extremely ambitious, especially for a high school student just now starting to explore and research the field of social entrepreneurship. Despite this doubt I had, I was also optimistic because I knew that with extensive research and time, I would be able to come up with an Original Work product that not only I was proud of, but in some way benefited others. So in early October, I got to work with my Original Work research and began logging the hours of time I spent on it.

When working on my Original Work Proposal, I had a lot of different ideas that I had been brainstorming since the beginning of the year, but I was not really satisfied with any of them. I knew that I wanted my Original Work to benefit others on a local or global level, but I was not really sure how I would be able to achieve that with these ideas. As I continued brainstorming, I remembered a video I watched about a month back about the value of entrepreneurship as a method towards poverty alleviation in the developing world. I especially connected with this video because it heavily highlighted the power of charitable donations and philanthropic fundraising, things that I had been doing with the club my friends and I founded our freshman year. I had noticed that although donations and fundraising initiatives helped families and communities in these parts of the world, they were only temporary solutions to address the issue of poverty. They did not prompt long-term sustainability and self-sufficiency among these communities, but rather promoted an increased dependency on external material contributions. This is why I felt that entrepreneurship was the most effective solution to poverty reduction in these areas because of its ability to raise self-employment and give opportunities to families to create their own business and source of income. However, the actual process of creating a small business can be very challenging, especially if these aspiring entrepreneurs lack formal education, resources, and capital to initiate a business venture. So, my idea was to create a brief guide for entrepreneurs in Nicaragua that outlined different procedures, processes, and tips to ensure a successful, small-scale enterprise.

I got to work with my Original Work by first completing extensive research on the topic. I knew that if I wanted to provide an accurate and beneficial guide for entrepreneurs, I would need to complete a lot of current general and specific research on Nicaragua. For me, I would say that this proved to be the most challenging and time-consuming part of completing my Original Work as it was difficult to find current research on Nicaraguan entrepreneurship specifically. But through extensive research with MackinVia and Google peer-reviewed articles, I was able to compile a list of many credible sources that primarily helped with the legal procedures and entrepreneurial education resources portion of my guide.

In regards to what I personally learned from this process, I feel like now I have a fuller understanding of the procedures, processes, and challenges entrepreneurs face when initiating and maintaining their businesses. Although this guide was specifically targeting aspiring

entrepreneurs in Nicaragua, I was able to brainstorm solutions to some of the general issues entrepreneurs face, such as ways to obtain initial funding. It really allowed me to go through the same steps that an entrepreneur would, understanding the basic procedures of creating a business. It was such a valuable way for me to explore the field and learn the fundamentals on my own through self research.

I hope to use what I have learned through this process to help me with my final product, where I want to come closer to actually generating a business plan and developing a business idea. I will do even more research, this time focusing on the market, to generate a business proposal and identify the steps needed to be taken to actually initiate something at that level. I hope that my final product will have an even greater local or global benefit and teach me more about the processes of creating a business.