

Hanna-Mary Cook

Mr. Speice

Independent Study and Mentorship - 3A

8 March 2019

### **Mentor Visit Assessment 1**

**Mentor:** Dr. Jamie Johnson

**Profession:** Lecturer

**Location:** University of North Texas

**Date:** February 22nd, 2019

**Time:** 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**Assessment:**

For my first mentor visit with Dr. Johnson, I went to the University of North Texas to go over my Final Product Proposal and to attend the Applied Anthropology Expo and Career Panel. I met with Dr. Johnson for the first hour of our time together, attended the Expo and Career Panel for the next three and a half hours, then talked to Dr. Johnson for an additional 30 minutes afterwards.

At the beginning of the visit, Dr. Johnson and I discussed my Final Product Proposal and worked on refining the topic of my case study. Dr. Johnson helped me to narrow down the focus of the study from the sports subculture of DFW to the factors affecting parental engagement in elite youth sports. Developing a more specific topic and a research question to base the study off of was helpful to determine a starting place for my research and will be helpful in the future

since I do not have to take on a subject that is as broad. Rather than focusing the study on breadth, I am now working on depth. Dr. Johnson also provided revisions in the wording of my Final Product Proposal to make it sound more like it was written by an anthropologist and featured more words used in anthropology rather than general research terms.

After revising my Final Product Proposal, we went to the Applied Anthropology Expo, where I had the chance to speak with UNT alumni who are currently working as applied anthropologists. Almost every presenter at the expo had a different job and used different anthropology skills in their jobs. Seeing the various career fields that were pursued by applied anthropologists opened my eyes to some career ideas that I had not previously considered. Each presenter shared the ways that they have incorporated skills learned while getting an anthropology degree into their current or past jobs. This experience allowed me to see how valuable an anthropology degree is and how it is useful to people performing many different tasks and services.

Following the Expo was the Career Panel portion of the event, which consisted of UNT alumni and special guest anthropologists sharing their advice on how to find a job in applied anthropology and how to be a successful applied anthropologist. The Career Panel provided very good advice about finding anthropology jobs, which are typically regarded as difficult to come by. They shared tips about joining groups to network with other anthropologists, demonstrated the importance of being able to advocate for yourself in an interview and explain why hiring an anthropologist would be good for a company, and explained how to use the unique perspective

gained through studying anthropology in a positive way and not let your emotions dictate your responses to various challenges.

Dr. Johnson and I continued to discuss my Final Product with a few of her current students after the end of the Career Panel. Attending the Applied Anthropology Expo and Career Panel was a fun and educational experience, which taught me about various applications of an anthropology degree. I learned about career choices that anthropologists have and the best ways to get a job in anthropology. I also enjoyed meeting Dr. Johnson in person and getting to revise my Final Product Proposal with her help.