

Hanna-Mary Cook

Mr. Speice

Independent Study and Mentorship - 3A

16 January 2019

Assessment 14

Name of Professional: Rose Jones, PhD.

Profession/Title: Director of Evaluation

Business/Company name: Perot Museum of Nature and Science

Date of Interview: December 14th, 2018

Assessment:

The interview with Dr. Jones was my first interview with an anthropologist who does not work in education. A future anthropology career in education does not interest me as much as options in other areas, so I was excited to learn more about what Dr. Jones does at the Perot Museum as the Director of Evaluation.

Dr. Jones and I began the interview by discussing what she typically does each day. She showed me her schedules, each based around a project that the Perot Museum's C-level executives and stakeholders assign to her. She is responsible for ensuring that each project is carried out to their satisfaction and benefits the museum as much as possible. A lot of these projects include surveying or evaluating guests to gauge their opinions of exhibits and how much they are learning from the museum. Dr. Jones' job sounds much more interesting to me than working in education because she gets to work on projects and

complete research on a daily basis. Additionally, her job varies each day since she works on several different projects at once and receives new projects periodically. Having days and tasks that vary is appealing to me as I am worried that I would get bored doing something more repetitive.

Next, Dr. Jones and I discussed her favorite part of her job at Perot, which is analyzing her data and writing summaries of her work for the executives and stakeholders who assigned the projects to her. This is something she enjoys because she likes to share the unique perspective that she gains as an anthropologist that most people do not have. Although writing typically does not interest me, analyzing data to discover a pattern and compiling a summary of a project sounds more enjoyable than most types of writing. Also, sharing a point of view that is not very well known through writing these reports would be more fun than most types of writing that I have done in the past. Another reason that Dr. Jones enjoys this step is because she gets to show others how valuable anthropology is as a career. She said that one of the most difficult parts of being an anthropologist is explaining the importance of the field and its impact on other areas. This does sound like a difficulty of working in anthropology, especially since anthropologists work in many fields that people do not realize. Additionally, anthropology is believed to be a career that not many people pursue, which is likely a result of the various fields that anthropologists incorporate themselves into. For example, a lot of salespeople and political workers have anthropology degrees, as having expertise in human nature and tendencies helps in their careers.

The interview with Dr. Jones taught me about a new application of anthropology and allowed me to gain insight on an example of how anthropological research is used in the real world to improve visitor turnout to an institution such as the Perot Museum. Dr.

Jones matched all of the common traits that had been described to me in past interviews, and had a sense of joy from her job that I really loved to see.