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Mr. Speice

Independent Study and Mentorship-3A

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**Product Progress Assessment**

Up to this point, my Final Product has been going well. The research portion of the project is complete, and I am now ready to move into observing baseball and softball games and analyzing data to answer the research questions developed. While a few of the calendar deadlines from the Final Product Proposal have been met, I have been running behind schedule for the past few weeks. The reason that these deadlines have been missed is difficulty in scheduling times to talk with Dr. Johnson about the next steps. When originally putting together the calendar, I failed to adjust the schedule for Spring Break and a conference that Dr. Johnson attended, which contributed to my falling behind. Being behind schedule will not impact my Final Product in any way. It will only mean that I have to fit more observations into a shorter amount of time to collect an adequate data set. Therefore, I am pleased with the way that my Final Product is progressing because I do not foresee any major changes due to falling slightly behind the original schedule.

The biggest success that has positively impacted my Final Product was finding a report which detailed a study that was very similar to the quantitative portion of my study. The article helped me to compare the procedure and set-up of my study to one that had already been completed and published. The report was about a study that took place in New Zealand, so it will be interesting to compare the results of my study to it when I have finished since they are similar procedures carried out in different settings.   
 Moving forward, I will begin to observe baseball and softball games and record the nature and aim of, and the resulting reaction from parent comments. Additionally, I will collect data related to the environment of the games and other details that may be important to analyzing data. After I have collected enough information from games to analyze and recognize patterns of parent behaviors, I will write a report about my findings using anthropological language and techniques.

Dr. Johnson has been very helpful in developing my Final Product. In the beginning, when brainstorming research questions and setting up the study, Dr. Johnson helped me to refine the topic to a smaller focus and to define the boundaries to ensure that the plan for the study was detailed and well thought-out. Having a more solid plan for the study has helped in finding relevant research articles and developing procedures for the observations. Dr. Johnson also assisted me when planning out the observations and writing questions to ask parents in interviews. She suggested that I conduct informal interviews with parents at the games to obtain information from their unique perspectives, and helped me to come up with open-ended questions to allow interview participants the chance to provide as much or as little information as they would like to. We also discussed the pros and cons of recording interviews compared to taking notes during interviews. Overall, Dr. Johnson has helped me to maintain a focus in anthropology for my study and has been a crucial part of its development thus far.

**Original Final Product Timeline:**

February 8th - Final Product Proposal Draft

February 15th - Final Product Proposal Mentor Feedback

February 15th-March 1st - Revise Final Product Proposal, learn about the approach to case

studies, begin research about ethnographic methods and parental

engagement in baseball/softball

March 1st - done with research about case studies, anthropological methods, and parental

engagement in youth sports

March 8th - Final Product Proposal Final

March 13th - Arrange dates to observe and interview with baseball and softball teams, have

completed interview questions

March 13th-April 20th - Observe baseball and softball games and interview parents and coaches

April 21st-April 30th - Compile and organize data from research, observations, and interviews

May 1st-May 10th - Analyze data and write case study report

**New Timeline:**

February 8th - Final Product Proposal Draft

February 15th - Final Product Proposal Mentor Feedback

February 15th-March 1st - Revise Final Product Proposal, learn about the approach to case

studies, begin research about ethnographic methods and parental

engagement in baseball/softball

March 1st - done with research about case studies, anthropological methods, and parental

engagement in youth sports

March 8th - Final Product Proposal Final

March 13th - Arrange dates to observe and interview with baseball and softball teams, have

completed interview questions

April 1st-April 20th - Observe baseball and softball games and interview parents and coaches

April 21st-May 5th - Compile and organize data from research, observations, and interviews

May 1st-May 10th - Analyze data and write case study report (Overlap with above if necessary)