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## Final Intern Report

My internship experience at Cider Mill Press Book Publishers has been overwhelmingly positive. Throughout this summer I have gained great insights to how this internship relates to my English major, and how I view my future career opportunities. Furthermore, it has taught me about what type of company I would like to work for after I graduate in the upcoming Spring 2017 semester.

### *How It Relates to My English Major*

My experience with an English major at the University of New Hampshire hasn't been as easy as it could have been. I came into UNH as a Business Administration major with a Marketing focus. However, I always had an affinity for English classes in high school, so to take care of a discovery course I took an English class (ENGL 415F). Once I took this class, I ended up working at the Writing Center. Then, I decided to attach an English minor to my degree. Eventually, I decided to pursue a dual degree in Business Administration and English.

Now, these two degrees don't typically go hand-in-hand, so I had to be careful to take only the necessary courses that would count towards specific requirements to make sure I would be able to graduate on time. Thus, I hadn't explored many irregular classes whose assignments fell outside the typical thesis-driven essay.

This internship gave me an opportunity to try a writing style that didn't respond to a novel, that wasn't thesis-driven, and that wasn't going to be graded by a professor. Needless to say, it was very different than what I was used to. I was now writing press releases, tip sheets for sellers, and entire pages to be added to a publication. None of which had a thesis, none of which was a response to another written work.

Breaking away from the structure I knew was difficult. I found myself struggling to stray from an academic tone. However, once I was able to break form, I found this new type of writing gratifying.

So, how does this evolution of writing relate to my English major? Not only has it improved my writing in a way that none of my English Major courses have, but I now realize with my remaining semesters I want to take courses that veer from the classes I have taken before. Don't get me wrong, I love writing a solid essay, but I realize I need to be able to write in other styles as well. I want to take courses that are outside my comfort zone, and push me to round out my writing skill set.

This internship taught me how to write to an entirely different audience than writing to a professor. I learned how to write without bias, how to sell someone with your words, and how to be extremely succinct. Even the bi-weekly journals I wrote for my

adviser helped me learn to write in a less formal tone, yet still write clearly enough so that my audience could understand what it was I was accomplishing at my internship.

So, this internship was very helpful in terms of giving me a new perspective on how I want to finish my English major. I want to push my boundaries, and keep writing!

### *Future Career Opportunities*

In a way, this internship made my future career path both more clear, and less. Prior to this internship, I had a very unclear path. I thought, "Maybe I'll work in Marketing," or "one day I would love to be the director of a Writing Center," or "publishing seems cool, I could try that too!" Basically, I had a variety of interests, and no clue how to put them together in a cohesive career path.

This internship has taught me a great deal about what I would like and what I wouldn't like. My title was the editorial intern. What I found out was that there are parts of editing that I like, and others I didn't like as much as I had imagined. I wasn't as fond of the actual copyediting. It is a lot of pressure, and can be draining. However, I loved putting together *The Benjamin Franklin Notebook*. I got to choose all of the content, how to put it together, and who to contact to write the Introduction. I did all the work to create this notebook, and I loved that feeling of accomplishment when it was done.

However, I was able to explore some tasks outside of editing as well, and was surprised by how much I enjoyed them. I was able to write a press release, a letter to ask a writer to write an Introduction for us, and tip sheets (explained in Intern Report #2). These tasks fall under PR, or sales, and I had a fantastic time completing said jobs. I realized in this sector of publishing I actually got to write more.

Therefore, this internship taught me that I might be more interested in a different sector of publishing than I previously thought. Furthermore, I realized I enjoy publishing in general, so I want to pursue a job in this industry after I graduate. However, I want to pursue a job in a Marketing department rather than the Editorial department. Now that I have the experience in editing, I could always go back to it. I have gained a great deal of knowledge into the editing world. I have edited multiple large works, have put together an entire publication, and have learned much of the vocabulary that goes along with editing. Now, I want to explore my interests in this other area.

Thus, the path becomes a little more clear. But with that clarity, there are new areas of interests that become less clear—and I realized that is perfectly okay. For example, another reason I would like to try marketing is that it would give me the marketing skillset that I could take to other industries. Say I really like marketing, but I get tired of the publishing industry, I could take the marketing skills I learn to another occupation. For example, I love traveling. That passion has been put on the backburner while I explored my interest in publishing, but if I realize I want to switch to, say, a Study Abroad agency, I could get my foot in the door by applying for a Marketing position.

Last, I referenced being interested in Writing Center work earlier. I've loved working at the Connors Writing Center since my first day there, and the passion has only grown. Working as the director of a Writing Center typically requires additional schooling. So, I was nervous that pursuing publishing would ruin my chances at ever working at a Writing Center again. On the contrary, I spoke with the director of the CWC about this fear, and she reassured me. She told me that working in the publishing industry after graduation would be great experience and would be beneficial to put on an application for Graduate School.

Additionally, my readings gave me great comfort. There were stories of all these people who found their true path by chance, and how their Liberal Arts degree allowed them to do so. Part of the reason I'm so comfortable with my new path I have forged (starting with publishing then possibly switching to do publicity at another company, or going back to school to pursue Writing Center work) is that I see how these people's lives worked out, and their paths weren't completely linear either. There are so many ways to use my Liberal Arts degree, and my experience with this internship, to make myself an appealing candidate.

Therefore, through this internship I learned if I start in Publishing, I could stay there, move to marketing of a different industry, *or* use my experience to apply to Graduate school. Thus, the path is both more clear, and less clear, but much less scary than before when I had *no* clue at all.

#### *What Type of Company to Work For*

Between my internship and readings, I not only learned *what* I want to do, but *what type of company* I would like to do it at! Cider Mill Press is a small independent publisher—only four in house employees. Initially, I thought this would be the type of company I want to work for. I was able to do a great deal of work, and gain much more experience than my friends working for large companies being sent out for coffee runs.

However, I later realized, maybe working at a small company is better for internships, rather than full-time employment. I slowly realized most of the regular full-time employees working there typically didn't leave the office until 6:00 or 6:30 at night. Being an intern, they always made sure I left by 5:00pm, but as a full-time employee they have a great deal of responsibility that often keeps them there late.

I don't think this workload would be as much of an issue while I'm young. However, in the long run I would not want to have work dominate my life. I'm a strong believer in having a healthy work-life balance, and I see how stressed my co-workers can get at Cider Mill Press—though they love their jobs.

With that being said, I wouldn't want to work at a huge corporation either. I believe a nice mid-sized company would be a perfect compromise for what I want out of a job.

Furthermore, my readings have also helped me realize what different types of companies there are out there. I learned about University Presses, which I guess I knew existed already, but had never entertained the thought of working at one. My readings illuminated that it working at a University Press is a great way to get hands on experience, and to make you a more attractive candidate for other publishing companies. Furthermore, working at a University Press means you get to collaborate with Graduate Students, which I already love to do at the Writing Center.

### *Conclusion*

This internship has helped round out my academic experience, and give me insights into what I want for myself in the future—both for a career and a company. I have gotten the chance to learn multiple new forms of writing that I had otherwise been unfamiliar with; such as, writing press releases, writing professional letters, and writing content for a publication. Furthermore, the internship enabled me to learn about my own interests. I realized I want to venture into other areas of publishing, like marketing, and see how I like it. Lastly, I have a feeling about the type of company I would like to work for. While I'm young, a smaller (but maybe not 4-person small) company would enable me to gain hands on experience, much like at Cider Mill Press. However, that lifestyle will be ideal for the short-term. I am so grateful for this opportunity—I learned more than I could have ever imagined.