

The Future of Work in America: Project Reflection

- ❖ What was the greatest challenge you faced in the project and what did you do to overcome that challenge?
 - My greatest challenge during this project was leaving in the middle of project work time. Before my trip, we had already completed both our interviews, wrote the beginnings of the script, deeply researched our topic, and I had started to pre-record parts of the script. By the time I returned three weeks later, my partner had finished the script, recorded the rest of the script, edited the podcast, accidentally lost the podcast, and had to re-record the entire thing from scratch. Due to the time difference and lack of internet I had during my trip, I struggled with helping her through this whole process, leaving the finishing work on her. I was feeling borderline useless as well as like I wasn't able to go through and learned more about each step of the podcast making process. For example, writing and editing a final draft of a podcast script, pulling each recording together and using sound cloud to make it into an exceptional sounding podcast as my partner did.

- ❖ If you could go back and do the project again what would you do differently and why?
 - If I were to go back and do this project again I would have focused more on writing the script and recording my half of it before leaving. Ava and I worked on research and interviews at the beginning, instead of the script. Because of this, I wasn't able to contribute as much as I hoped when it came to making the final podcast. I pre-recorded the introduction and a couple of factual statements we wanted to incorporate into the podcast, but once Ava finished writing and editing the script, the sections I recorded change. This left my recordings useless, and my sections of the script having to be recorded by her. In conclusion, if I were to do something different, I would have liked to make sure the work I was spending my time on before leaving was useful for Ava, taking a section of the work off her shoulder later on in the podcast making process.

- ❖ What is the greatest insight you gained about the state of labor issues today?
 - One of the greatest insights I gained about the state of labor issues today is that the things we struggled with in the past are still struggles in today's everyday life. While making our podcast we researched about a woman's place in the workforce and the wage gap between men and women in their workplaces. We found that at one point in the past, women were only making 69 cents to every one man's dollar. This was extremely shocking news to me, but then I learned that even if there isn't that large of a gap nowadays, it is still present. The recent studies have shown that it is about 82 cents to one man's dollar today. It is predicted to equal out around the year 2059. This means that it will take around another 40 years to be equal between men and women. As a woman who will be 56 and almost ready to retire by then, I feel wrongfully treated in the amount of money I can lose in that amount of time. In conclusion, this project has brought my awareness up about how we get used to talking about how bad situations were in the past, but we don't realize some people's lives are still being majorly affected by these same issues.

- ❖ What are you most proud of in your project?
 - I am most proud of my structured academic controversy (SAC). To be able to participate, we needed to research both sides of the argument to whether or not globalization has undermined America's working class. We were asked to examine and summarize 2 political cartoons, 3 articles, and 2 videos, as well as use these to prepare arguments for both sides, yes and no. Completing this large packet took determination, using my time wisely, and being open-minded to the different sided opinions and facts. After spending multiple days preparing the SAC, I was finally given a side to argue, which was, yes, globalization has indeed undermined America's working class. I am very proud of my ability to get quality work and research done in advance, prepare strong evidence for my arguments, prepare strong evidence against possible opposing arguments, and the strong delivery of my opinions as well as research and sources backing me up.

- ❖ Explain 1 way you grew as a student during this project.
 - One way I grew as a student during this project was taking a step down from the leadership role. At Mountain Middle School, I learned what project-based learning was in a school environment. Along with that, I also learned that during projects I tend to feel a need to take a leadership role. I worry about projects not being the quality I want them to be, along with getting bad grades on them. This had lead to me somewhat controlling projects. The labor project was one of the first where I didn't feel the need to take over. My partner and I are close friends so I knew that she also has a personality like mine, where she likes to be a leader. Due to that, as well as how I was going to be leaving for two weeks during the project, I recognized that I needed to step down and be a follower. Not being the leader during this project put much less stress on my shoulders, and I was able to check in with my partner every day and do the tasks she asked me to do. One of the most helpful things for me was having complete trust in her and knowing that no matter what happens during the project, the final podcast will turn out better than I could even imagine. When I returned from my travels, I listened to our final podcast and it clicked for me that not being a leader and not having to control the whole project was challenging for me but was a great accomplishment for me as a student.