Torres Sergio   5/3/15

Advisory

Period 0

Ms. Ma

Retrospective

Hello, my name is Sergio Torres,I have been at Vaughn since sixth grade, before that I went

to Morningside and before that Pacoima Charter. I am currently a graduating senior and I'd

like to share with you about projects that I've felt have helped me become more of a well

rounded student and global citizen.   (Switch slide)

 As a ninth grader the first project I had was the 'This I Believe' essay assigned by

 Ms. Burnett. In the project I had to find an event in my life that I felt made me who I am, and

that's what I did. I talked about how I was raised and how that influences the decisions I make

today. Throughout the project I grew in my **skills for academic success.** For the first time

ever I was able to write an essay that was 500 words long; coming from classes where big

essays where a page long, that was quite a change. Being able to get through that, made me

grow as a student as it really helped me see that writing longer sized paper was possible,   it

was just a matter of the amount of time in your hands and content available to you.

(Switch Slide and place of orientation to the audience)

  The second project I had in ninth grade was a group project for Digital Literacy, a class once

led by Ms. Espinoza. The project was to investigate dangers associated with using the

internet, and inform the community about them. We talked about things like being careful

about what sort of information you were placing on online profiles and what information you

were giving people on the internet. Because of the project I was able to grow in my skill of

communicating ideas, as I was able to make a presentation as well as deliver it, in a depth I

had not previously gone to before. What was so different about this project compare to past ones was that, while before presentations meant making a speech to a class full of your friends, in this project we had to go to a group of students from a different grade altogether and speak to them about the dangers of internet safety. Altogether the project was a huge learning experience, and I felt like I grew as a student, as I matured in presentational skills..
(Switch to Tenth Grade)

In tenth grade I had a project for Environmental science, in which I grew as a student as I developed the skill of recognizing different perspectives. The project was a debate in which we had to take a side of an issue which in my case was nanotechnology. While another team had to make an argument against the use of nanotechnology I had to fight for the use of technology. For me to investigate that, I had to **recognize different perspectives.** Having to browse through websites I had to decide which was for the proposition of the usage of nanotech for example, and which was against the proposition. I felt that I grew as a student, being able to look through the internet and tell the point of view of certain websites as I went through them; a skill that I know has been a good one to acquire. (Switch Slides)

The second project that I had in tenth grade, helped me grow as a global citizen and that was " the Lifecycle of an object" project for my Environmental Science class. In it I **grew in my knowledge** as I learnt about the processes that it takes to make a hot wheel. I had to contact the company and try to find information on their manufacturing process. I thought it was very interesting and because of this newfound knowledge I felt like I grew as a global citizen as I learned more about the effects of outsourcing certain processes of our products. I now see the huge amount of diesel and fuel being spent on transportation as well as the usage of cheap labor, that while profitable economically, has a huge impact on our surroundings, and our global image as a country. (Switch Slides)

In eleventh grade I had probably my favorite project which was a project for the environmental club, HOPE. In it I grew as a global citizen, as I **learnt how to take action.** My friend had started a garden but no longer felt like he wanted to take care of it, so he decided to let me have it. Over the course of a year I learned how to take action and the responsibility that comes with it like the point that you can't always depend on others to get the work done because sometimes there's simply no one else there; the good thing was that I found a project I was pretty interested in so it was fulfilling in itself. The project was widely successful and eventually because of it I grew in my confidence as a leader, as I led other people on the project. (Switch Slides)

In eleventh grade my second project was for HOPE also, and that was the Carnival . The environmental club HOPE organizes the Carnival each year but being in HOPE for the first time it was a very new experience for me. As I learnt what goes on behind big events, like the Carnival I felt that I grew in **my college readiness**.I got to see what the two CEOs had to do to keep everyone working and how they usually did the most work, which later influenced my decision of also becoming a ceo. Due to this project I grew as a student, and had a bigger idea of the leadership and work needed to get big events like the Carnival , done.

(Switch to Senior Year as well as location of where I'm speaking from)

In my senior and last year, I grew as a student as I completed 'the Job Career Shadow Project' for Ms. Burnett's class. The project helped me **grow in career readiness** as I observed a person's workday in a profession I was debating about pursuing one day. In my case the guy I was shadowing was a farm manager. It was very interesting and fun to see how the farm boss would do his duty and, seeing what parts I liked and disliked about the the job helped me recalibrate how I looked at the profession. Because of the project I feel like I

have a larger perspective, and when things come to shove I'll make a more informed decision when choosing a job or career.

(Switch SLide) The final project I'd like to talk about is the TLO speech I completed in my Government class. The purpose was to write and give an introductory speech that would set the basic skeletal system of our argument for the debate out into the floor. Through the project I grew as a global citizen as I **investigated the world,** as I researched the TLO Supreme Court Case. As I got the chance to debate the same topic that a panel of supreme court case judges had before, I grew as a global citizen as I was faced with the same dilemma they were, although in the end we had a different conclusion on the matter. Altogether the speech was pretty fun to write but a little nerve wrecking to deliver in front of my peers. [Change standing positions]

Advice I'd have for underclassmen would be to find something to be passionate about, preferably something that'd make sense to be passionate about, not magic or juggling but something worthwhile something you can make a career out of. My advice would be not to wait until you have to pay for classes to find out if you like a subject or not, to take advantage of the resources that a school delivers or can deliver if prompted to. If there's no football team then form one, if there's not enough math subjects then study online or petition for a class. Let someone in the school board know what you want.The school board is formed by people who want to listen or at least are paid to. Rethink how you look at education, School should be a place where you learn, not where you are force fed information, so figure out what you like and what you want in life and go on from there. As a concession to teachers don't let your passion keep you from graduating.

As for my advice for faculty with all due respect it'd be to not focus as much on the quantity of work, as much as much as the quality. Why assign a five page paper when I can say the

same thing in a single sheet of paper and far more eloquently. Either than that I don't have much to add or complain about.

Thank You