

The STEAM Internship Program for Leaders – Week 2

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Monday 6/29, 10 am EST: Welcome to the second week of our program!! This morning, I had the pleasure of interviewing Elena Abou Mrad, my selected present “Woman of Discovery”. Elena is an archivist, a storyteller, and a blogger, just like me. I wanted my interview to be a relaxed and enjoyable experience, so I started off by asking Elena some basic questions about how she was feeling and what she does. At the end I wanted to hear some advice that she has for a new and curious blogger (like myself). One advice that I will remember forever is when she said to “always be yourself”. I like this quote because I feel like it’s so simple yet many fail to follow it. After the interview, Elena gave an incredible workshop on “Digital Humanities”. Digital humanities is a field of study and research that intersects with humanities. We learned that there are so many creative things you can do with maps. During the breakout session, we teamed up, selected one of our favorite books, and made a graph out of it! Hearing other teams present their graph and book was even more exciting.

On Tuesday we once again welcomed Carol Colmenares. Carol worked with us on “Digital Media.” We talked about media which are communication tools we use to store and deliver information in the form of text and/or data. Examples of some media are Facebook, TV, radio, music, and even newspapers. The main purpose of these media are to sell products, services, or ideas to customers. During the breakout session, our students teamed up and built our own brand, for which we identified the audience, created a platform, and then came up with a message that we wanted people to take away. One of the main take-aways I learned was that digital media are basically networks, meaning you are connected to a web! It’s important to be mindful and very careful about the subjects you post, comment on, or even share because while you might be able to delete it temporarily, it could always be found later on.

Imagine if you were to meet or interview Michelle Obama, what would you say first? How would you sleep the night before? What would you wear? Michelle Obama is one of those people whom, if I ever met, I would just be speechless. On Wednesday, Maura Kelly talked about it like it was something that happened every day for her; I was amazed. Maura, an EMMY award winning producer, did a workshop with us focusing on interviewing skills. We learned all about branding and marketing, thinking like a journalist, the pre-interviews, the importance of listening, and the type of questions to ask and which to avoid. I was even more amazed when Maura shared some short videos from StoryCorps that showed some of the interview skills we had just learned about. When I was a sophomore in high school, my teacher took us to Brooklyn to be interviewed by StoryCorps. We got to choose who we did the interview with and at the end they gave us a copy of our story; I was shocked because I almost forgot about this part of my high school year until I saw those short stories! Before we wrapped up, we got into groups of 2-3 and interviewed one another. Keeping the interview at a friendly, conversational level is the best!

On Thursday, Mariella Perez Perez taught us all about films and how to make a creative video. We began with a slide presentation of pre-production, production, post-production, close up shots, and cowboy shots. We also talked about how to be organized and how to look confident. Mariella then showed us inspiring videos of teens who are making changes across the world. The videos were really motivational to me because it was a reminder that we are all in charge of our own lives, and that there's a battle out there and we could either choose to be a part of that problem or be a part of the solution.

We didn't meet on Friday because it was a holiday weekend, so that is the end of the second week! Till next time.