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Habit of Mind Reflection

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This school year, my senior project, which I worked on from September and to May, allowed me to demonstrate many Habits of Mind. I never thought I would be able to demonstrate so many diverse ones through a single school project, but it happened.

My project connects with zest because of the videos I made. I was excited so could get the viewers excited about learning Japanese, too. If I was boring or had an angry voice, I would not get many viewers, so I had to put just the right amount of energy into every word. When I did my presentation on my project in front of the school, I also had some amount of zest. I wasn't afraid to get up in front of everyone and explain my project because I knew what I was talking about and I liked it. I showed even more zest when I presented about the fundraiser for prom. I tried to get excited about it so everyone else would be, too, and it sort of worked. We only made \$87 but teachers told me how much they enjoyed my announcements about it.

Next, my project allowed me to get a presence on the internet, so it demonstrates self-advocacy. I am able to show all of the great work I put into my senior project and that can get people to want to look at my other work, too, like my portfolios. The website allows me to show the world how amazing I can be.

My project shows creativity because instead of a class at school, I made a website to teach people Japanese. This makes my information available everywhere. Also, it is a sort of unconventional way to learn a new language. Showing someone else this method was worth a try because that's how I learned Japanese, and it worked for me. In English I had to be creative when we did our Moth stories so I could keep a captive audience. I used my body to show parts of the story as I said them and I used descriptive words that allowed for a better picture in their minds.

My project showed grit because I'm using my knowledge of how I learned a language and expanding on it to make videos, vocabulary lists, and information sheets. It was a lot of work, especially the videos, but I didn't give up once, and I got it done early.

My project shows community engagement because I gave the online community a new resource to learn Japanese. I even opened up my email to them so they can ask questions, and provide feedback.

My project shows optimism because even though my research showed that children can learn a second language best, I aimed the website at people already out of the critical period. I have hope for them!

I also have been able to show humility through my senior project. When I posted a link to my website on Reddit, I got a lot of negative feedback, but I realize that I can't have included everything about the Japanese language when I had less than a year to work on it. Of course I had to leave some things out and focus only on what I thought would be helpful to a complete beginner. What I did include, though, I think I did a good job on.

Gratitude is the final Habit of Mind I was able to demonstrate through my senior project. All the help I got from Collis sensei, ICS, Morimura Sensei, Kyleen, and everyone else was greatly appreciated. They gave me ideas to keep pushing through my project, and they often proved to be resources for me whenever I needed something done. I thanked them throughout the process of creating my website to show them how much they mattered to my success.

Although I was able to demonstrate so many Habits of Mind through my senior project, I couldn't demonstrate them all. One such Habit of Mind was organization. I had to organize the tabs on the website, for example, but I had no idea where my handwritten notes were. They had paraphrasing and summaries of previous research, and I couldn't use them because I couldn't find them. I should have kept a special folder for all of my senior project papers. In other classes, like in physics, I was moderately organized. I kept my notes in chronological order, but the folders on my binder were full of random work and half started assignments. It was terrible when I had to prepare for the final exam.

Another Habit of Mind I didn't demonstrate as well as I could have was collaboration. I didn't work with anyone to create the website. The entire process of putting together the website was done by me alone. The only people I collaborated with were Collis sensei, ICS, Morimura Sensei, Kyleen, and a couple other people, and they helped more with research than the actual website. I collaborated with more people in civics, where we had an assignment from the book every day that we had to work on with partners or in a group. Still, I tried to stay with the same group most of the time.