

Savannah Gomes

October 22, 2013

10 minutes

I should look more into the brain. What about children's brains allows them to be so flexible? There is a ton of research about it available so I know I can't get everything into this paper. Are there any disadvantages to learning another language? What is the counter-argument? I talked to Nahoko Collis and she said she couldn't think of any. Maybe it could be that learning as an adult is actually better than learning as a child. My thesis has to be stronger. An example is: every elementary school should have a language learning program starting in kindergarten. Is there research on how learning a language can improve empathy or knowledge about research?

I need to fix my paper and do more research.

I'll make another meeting with her next week for the next week, so I can have two weeks in between to start a new endeavor.

November 18, 2013

9 minutes

We talked about my interview with Liz Schibuk, who went to a French immersion school. I mentioned the article on benefits of bilingualism on the brain. She told me to look into how countries like India are doing for language, and that I could find a rank on the US for comparison. Then, that I could look into the pattern of languages taught at schools in the US. Her friend, she said, had trouble finding a job as a French teacher.

For my senior project, Kyleen said I should ask Nahoko if she needs any help at Wheeler, or if she can give me advice.

I will come up with my 7 deadlines for my senior project.

I will do more research on benefits of bilingualism.

November 25, 2013

9 minutes

We discussed backwards planning. She gave me ideas on what steps I could take on the way to meeting my final goal of making a website like Aura and Anna. She said that I might check into

Brown's Japanese department, that I might look into the stoicism after the tsunami hit Japan, and that I can talk with Nahoko about helping out at Wheeler with her.

I'll email/meet with Nahoko about whether she needs/wants my help at Wheeler, and about what she does there.

Thursday, December 5

December 5, 2013

4 minutes

We discussed that if Nahoko is apprehensive about helping me that I should emphasize that even though it's for my senior project, my main goal is to help her. Then, because she hasn't responded, I should start looking into other people and organizations to help me. This should all be done before Christmas, so I find someone to help me and I'm not too far behind. She said the articles I found were great because the experience of reading something so intense hasn't come up for me yet.

I will email other people about helping them and try and wait to see what Nahoko says. I'll also get to reading through the articles I found and trying to decipher what they mean.

Next meeting is TBD, hopefully sometime right before break.

December 16, 2013

7 minutes

We discussed the Small Talk Language Academy. They're located around RI in places like Providence and Warwick. They have classes in Spanish, French, Mandarin Chinese, and Italian. They're all about learning language at an early age. It'd be perfect for me to be able to work with them. Kyleen also told me to look at the French American School. I might be able to do an interview with them or even help them out in some way.

I will email the Small Talk Language Academy asking them if I could be of assistance to them. I also will take good notes on my articles.

Next meeting is TBD, but definitely after break.

January 17, 2014

12 minutes

We discussed my thesis. She liked the second part of my thesis. She said that she felt like a thesis should be a little bossy, and I had that. The first part, though, needed work because the

subject made the rest of the sentence weird. She gave me some options to help me try and fix that. I feel a lot better now.

I need to fix my thesis. I also need to call Small Talk! I keep putting it off but I have to stop.

Last week of the month.

January 30, 2014

10 minutes

We discussed the website I'm creating. I just started a couple days ago, so I don't have much. We talked about advertising, but that probably won't come until later. I asked about an app like Liz has and she gave me SloPro. It'd be good for showing how to write and somewhat good for how to speak. She also mentioned that I should have a links page where anyone who visits the site can go to get more practice, especially with speaking.

Kyleen said when I start to get a little more on there I should let Nahoko know so she can keep steering me in the right direction. Then, after that, I should contact someone from a college or university and interview them, and talk to them about my research and website. So right now, I'll have to figure out who has a Japanese department.

Two weeks

February 14, 2014

5 minutes

We discussed my paper. I told her about the problems I was having before I gave her the paper. My problem of not having the right examples and talking more about adults could be easily solved. She said to just be transparent. I should say what the research said but still explain the importance of the critical period.

Before the next meeting, I should work more on my website. Again, I just have to do the vocabulary and phrases as a minimum. Next meeting I'll walk her through what I have so far. I think I might have either too much or not enough, depending on how you look at it. I have a ton to do with the culture part, but less with the actual language.

Next meeting is the week after break.

February 27, 2014

4 minutes

At the very start of the meeting we talked about the research paper. I'm still working on it and I think I'm doing fine. Kyleen wants me to talk to Christina about making a Quia website for Japanese games and flashcards. Mostly, though, we discussed my website. I want to advertise at Anime Boston. I'll start putting together a little flyer to pass out so I can get it edited and finalized before we actually go up to Boston. That means that I'll have to put working on the website on the back burner for a short amount of time.

I don't know how many copies, or whether it'll be in color or in black and white, or if it'll be on colored paper, or whether I should use a different kind of paper for the flyers. I'll figure that all out a little closer to the date (March 22). I want to look at other advertisements for websites before I dive into mine. I'll do some research and then use Microsoft Publisher to put my advertisement together. I think this might really work!

March 18, 2014

5 minutes

We discussed my flyer for Anime Boston. Kyleen was very busy this week, so leading up to the meeting we sent a few emails back and forth about the flyer. I had John look at it, and then Kyleen, and I fixed what they told me to and had them re-check it. When Kyleen said it was good to go, she gave me some thick paper to print the flyers on. We talked about whether they should be hung up or distributed. I decided that I should place some around the convention but hand out a few. Kyleen said to print 20, but I did 25 because I was afraid one might get wrinkled or stained or something. I just wanted some backup.

The goals of my senior project are to put together a website that people can use to learn simple Japanese, and to advertise it so more people see it. Learning Japanese isn't just learning the language, either. I'm including sections on culture like food, holidays, money, and anime. I want the people who view the website to be able to learn as much as possible in one place. I'm starting the advertising section right now even though the website itself isn't done. I feel like the more publicity, the better.

Before the next meeting, I need to pass out/hang up the flyers at Anime Boston. I also need to keep adding vocabulary and I need to do some research on the culture so I can start adding information there.

I just emailed her about Thursday.

March 24, 2014

10 minutes

We discussed how Anime Boston went. I placed the flyers with a bunch of other flyers that were lying on a table away from the vendors. Then, I took a couple around with me and Ashley and Tania helped me pass them out to passers-by. They were all really excited to get them, even before they knew what it was for. It was encouraging. No one's gone onto my website and taken the survey yet, and I don't have a visitor counter, so I won't know if it worked yet.

Then, we talked about how, because I'm starting the research for food, I might put links to local restaurants so people can actually try it out for themselves. Then, we talked about even putting links to local organizations under 'resources' so people can check out those places in person.

Before the next meeting, I need to do the culture research. I think finding restaurants will be kind of simple, and then I can talk about eating culture and traditional breakfasts, and everything else. I need to check how Aura and Anna cited their sources on their website because I think that'll be the trickiest part.

Right now, a big challenge is finding a way to create the videos for the syllabaries. I need to actually ask Liz how she does it, because I couldn't get SloPro to work to record what's going on on the screen. I suppose I can just record the video and then do a voice over once it's done, but that seems like a really roundabout way. Still, I really just have to ask Liz and then I think I'll have an answer.

April 10, 2014

15 minutes

We discussed how I got a person on my website with the advertisements from Anime Boston. Then, we talked about SnagIt, where I can take a video of what's on my computer's screen. She said that before I get the free trial, I should practice on Christina's computer so I don't waste time once I get the trial. I also talked about how I made a formula for what I'll say in the videos so they can be quick and easy and to the point. Then we talked about my culture tabs, and how much information I should include. We decided that because my focus was more language and getting people introduced to Japanese, that I should put a quick synopsis of the categories and then put a link to a website with more in depth information in case they want to learn more. Then, we talked about me meeting with Morimura Sensei on Thursday during vacation.

So far, I've made a blog, updated the survey, added more vocabulary and phrases, added culture things, and made the formula for my videos. I still need to meet with Morimura Sensei to get her input and see what she's doing with her Japanese class at Classical. I also still need to get SnagIt and make my videos. There are going to be at least 93 but they're all going to be no longer than 3 minutes each. I have to finish adding to the culture tab. Now I just have to do anime and holidays. Then, before I go any further, I want someone to look it over to make sure everything makes sense and that I have no spelling/grammar mistakes. There's so much to do but the end is in sight!

I had some cool ideas and did some extra things since our last meeting, but I still did the research on culture and I found how Aura and Anna cited their sources. Now, before our next meeting, I need to finish the culture tab and start making the videos. Kyleen wants me to email her the official link to my website so she might be able to put it on the school's website. I should also post my website on Reddit so I can get more traffic. She said she'd also think up other places I might be able to advertise.

May 1, 2014

10 minutes

We talked about the program I'm using for the videos. It's the one Christina used. I'm trying it out on my dad's laptop because it's a touch screen so I think it'll be easier than trying to use my sister's iPad. We also talked about how I still need to finish the holiday tab. I did everything else, though. Then, we talked about my paper. Now she knows that I'm through with John's edits and on to Stacy's. I guess it hasn't come up since I got it back.

The only things I have left on the website are the holiday tab and the videos, which are all going to be very short except for the first one. With my paper, I'm about halfway or $\frac{3}{4}$ done the edits Stacy gave me. I'm trying to give myself Monday at the latest to finish them. I forgot to mention to Kyleen that the meeting I was supposed to have with the Japanese teacher from Classical was a bust. They cancelled the after school program the day I was supposed to go. I still need to find a date that will work for both of us.

Before the next meeting, I should probably get started on the videos. I want to have the program installed and have practiced on it a few times by Saturday. The free trial is only 15 days. That should be enough time since the videos are going to be so short, but I want to finish early in case I find there's another topic I want to do a video about, like grammar. If I can, I want to. Then, the holiday tab should be easy since I have all the copied pages as resources.

I don't know.

May 6, 2014

10 minutes

I showed her an example video. It was only 1/94, but they're all pretty much the same thing, just with a different character. I realized during the meeting that I should add videos to the "Holidays" tab. I told her I still want someone to review my grammar and everything, but I'm pretty much done. Then, we talked about how I want to present to the school soon, and I think I'll do it this week. Then, we talked about how I handed in a second draft of my research paper to Stacy. Finally, I asked her to come to my portfolio presentation.

So far, I've finished all the videos I had to do, published them to YouTube, and put the links on my website. I also finished the writing on the "Holiday" tab and just have to add pictures. I also still have to advertise a little more, but that I already have set in motion. I'm presenting it to the school during morning meeting this week and I'm posting a link to Reddit. Other than those few things, I'm done.

Before the next meeting I want to finish everything. My portfolio presentation is on the 20th so the next meeting should be before then, but probably will be next week. That'll give me some time to work on everything thoroughly. The only hard part will be getting someone to read through for the grammar. I think I may recruit different people to read different sections.

Next week

May 15, 2014

5 minutes

We discussed my Reddit post. It went really well, actually. The day I posted it, I got 2,373 unique visitors to my website. I got a bunch of survey responses, too, and most of them said they heard about my website on Reddit. This was our last coach meeting! I finished everything I said I would for the project and I got my paper signed off. She said if I need any help with my presentation or anything that I can still ask her, though.

Since our last meeting, I finished everything. I got my paper signed off, I scheduled my portfolio presentation, and I finished my project. There is nothing left to complete. The only thing I have left doesn't have to do with coach meetings. I just have to wait and see if I'll pass my presentation or not. Hopefully I will, because I know the information well. It feels good to almost be done.

There isn't going to be a next meeting. I present next week.