

Mr. Speice

Independent Study Mentorship II

11 January 2021

Innovation, Originality, and Brilliance

Assessment 12 - Mentor Visit Assessment

Profession: Software Developer

Location: Virtual Platform via Zoom

Date: 10 January 2021

Time: 10:58 A.M. - 11:45 A.M.

Assessment:

Every brilliant platform used today--Google, Spotify, and Facebook to name a few--started off with a brilliant idea. However, in order to achieve the brilliance these platforms have achieved, there is a necessary and extensive brainstorming process to go through. This brainstorming process allows for not only an innovative plan but also an extensive plan on how the product will look like from start to completion. This past weekend, I had the opportunity to go through the brainstorming process with my mentor, Mr. Trey Blankenship in order to develop game-changing software for a commercial industry.

To initiate the brainstorming process, it was important to identify different industries as well as issues within those industries. This served to be an instrumental step within the development process because it allowed for the rest of the brainstorming process to be focused while also ensuring the problem that was being addressed was a problem that did not have solutions already in place. This also helps limit the competition from other products because if there are other products made by corporations, it is likely that those products will be better than one made by an independent developer, essentially, making the product that is created by the

independent developer pointless. This step of the process serves to also be important past the final product, as this is something that will be widely done in the technology entrepreneurship industry, an area that serves to be a potential future career pathway.

After identifying different problems within different industries, it was important to identify potential solutions to these problems. In order to do this, it was necessary to take a perpendicular approach. Rather than thinking of ideas regularly, we discovered that a better opportunity would be to ask ourselves questions that would lead us to solutions. This served as a point of growth in many fields including my creative mindset, leadership abilities, and experience synthesis. Through going through the question process, a creative mindset developed because this was such an unconventional yet effective approach. This approach impacted leadership ability because it showed highlighted different ways in which to solve a problem and through introducing this process of questioning, the toolbox of leadership tools increases when working in a team. Finally, this process allowed for an experience synthesis--developing solutions based on experiences--because it ensured that the solution was also being taken a look at from a consumer standpoint. This was incredibly important in the sense that it ensured that consumers would actually be willing to use this product and find the product useful. Through going through the solution brainstorming process, I not only grew as a person but also got closer to the idea of brilliance by ensuring that the product itself was a near foolproof idea.

The final aspect that was addressed during the brainstorming process was scalability and extensibility. In order to ensure that the product would actually be used by many, it's important that the product has a scalable architecture so it can support 1000 to 1 million users in a matter of seconds. This brought in a unique technical viewpoint that will prove to be helpful in the future when a technology entrepreneurial endeavor is pursued because scalability is often the last

thought and can be missed during the planning process. The other aspect of extensibility was important to consider the longevity of the product because if a product is not extensible, users will leave to pursue competing platforms. This was yet another unique viewpoint on the business side of things which also served to be important so that a product does not find downfall on its first day. Synthesizing these two aspects, in a software development aspect, technical concerns for the future were addressed which are also concerns that will need to be addressed in future projects, and less technical concerns were addressed to ensure the product is running at peak performance at all times and has a future within any industry.

Through going through these three portions of the brainstorming process iteratively for different products, the ideas that were generated were a large success. Future steps regarding ideas would be to finalize the smaller details and figure out the feasibility of different implementation approaches. Through doing this, the product development and deployment phases will be complete, allowing a more successful and brilliant product.

[Mentor Visit Notes](#)