

# Reaching Out

## Weekly Report 26: 4/5 - 4/11

In the professional world, networking is an incredibly important aspect to grow in one's career whether it be reaching out to professionals within the industry to gain insightful advice or just contacting an old teacher to collaborate with to achieve your goals. It can oftentimes be the path to getting a job, building a name for oneself, or obtaining new information.

This past week I had the opportunity to reach out to my middle school robotics teacher to request some time to give a presentation over my work in ISM thus far. In doing so, I was able to present myself in such a way that the time she lets me present would also be a time in which her students would be able to benefit from the experience.

One of the major challenges of reaching out to my middle school teacher was the actual process of communicating to her. Since she was someone who I had not contacted in a while, it was incumbent that I introduced myself properly to refresh her memories on who I was and stated my purpose in a clear and meaningful way. Through doing this, I was able to maintain absolute transparency, a skill that is widely needed both within and outside of industry. Because of this experience, interpersonal skills like better communication, networking, and presenting oneself were developed. These are certain to help going forward whether it be in career or in life. Additionally, software firms love to see these types of skills because they demonstrate leadership-- something that will assist in the advancement of the corporate ladder.

Reflecting for the future, this week's experiences have been some of the more beneficial experiences in ISM because it teaches leadership and interpersonal skills that are certain to be used in the future. In going through these experiences, I have developed myself as a leader, allowing me to be a step ahead of many others vying for top positions within a corporation.

