

Pinball Project Reflection Essay -- due Thursday, 9/7

Congratulations! You have finished your first Axis STEM project, the pinball machine, presented your innovation process with the class and have played the pinball machines. Along this short journey, you have also been thinking about the STEM values of mindfulness, innovation, grit, habits and teamwork or, MIGHT. Now it is time to reflect on this journey! Please use your ideas, feelings, etc. from the quickwrites immediately following your presentations as a starting point.

In a short, personal narrative essay, type a three paragraph essay that reflects upon your experience during the design and construction of your pinball machine. Your essay should include an introduction, body and conclusion that focuses on one or more of the MIGHT values and how it/they emerged from your work on the pinball machine. Think about the following questions in your focus or foci:

- What was your understanding of the value at the beginning of the process?
- How did an aspect of the design, construction, and/or teamwork reflect one or more of these values?
- How did you come to a new understanding of the value in the project? Be specific here. Describe the “aha” moment you had about one of the values, in detail.
- How did you use one of the values in your Edison Moment?
- Finally, how will you begin your next STEM project with your new understanding of the values you learned during the project?

When you write your essay, be sure to focus on the following areas of improvement from your first two essays:

- Provide a thesis (focus of the essay) at the end of the first paragraph
- Submit in MLA style with a creative title (see Steinglass’s website for help with MLA)
- Work on comma usage -- use Grammar Triage and website as resources
- Provide a solid structure
- Use transition words between ideas (see new link on website)
- Describe, describe, describe what you saw, felt, heard, touched, tasted, thought, etc.

Since the genre of this essay is a personal narrative, you may tell it like a story, using the informal voice and pronouns “I,” “we,” “us,” and “our” while sharing your reflection.

Having trouble starting? Take a picture of your quick-writes from the composition notebooks.