**An Enriching project—Career Oscars**

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‘Career Oscars”, is it an Oscar award? Don’t be silly. The answer is of course a no. ‘Career Oscars” project is a compulsory career-learning activity for all F.5 students to take part in. Its aim is to enhance students’ knowledge about the career they are interested in through research and presentation. I, being a F.5 student in our school, have recently been involved in this career project and have gained a lot from it. Out topic for the project is journalism. WE have enriched ourselves after this presentation and we felt thankful. I am pleased to have the chance of sharing my experience to you students through this school magazine and I hope you all will find this rewarding and inspiring.

So far, the overall process of this project is quite smooth due to the cooperation and our group members; willingness to accept others’ opinions and suggestions. This project is unlike the previous projects we have done in lower forms. It requires us students to present what we have done in front of the class as well as devising a questionnaire for audience to fill in regarding our performance. None of our group members had designed a questionnaire like that before and therefore, it was quite a challenging job to us. At first, we didn’t communicate well and all five of our group members thought of our own questions. It turned out to be a mess without doubt as many questions set were repetitive and we have different preference on whether the questions were related or off-topic. There was a time when we felt frustrated and had thought of giving up. Luckily in the end, we asked our parents and teachers for advice and were willing to compile and finish the task together. We successfully overcame this unfamiliar challenge.

Another obstacle we faced were doing this project was the debate over who should be responsible for the research and presentation on various topics based on the theme as some are relatively easier to handle but others may be a more demanding. To avoid dispute within the group, we used the childish method to make the decision—playing ’paper-scissors-stone’. Every group member did obey the results of the game and we worked together effectively aiming to achieve perfection in this project. These difficulties may seem to be minor. But remember, the fact is that if we hadn’t been able to tackle these, this project would have definitely been a great failure. So, don’t laugh at what we have done because you, you and you may be the ones encountering these problems in the future! Hope my experience can give you all an insight on how to deal with some of the matters.

Having paid a lot of effort in completing the project, we are quite satisfied with our work. WE believe that we have done a satisfying job in compiling information so as to well equip ourselves to give a presentation with a rich content. Surfing numerous websites and reading a certain number of books and newspapers, we were confident that the information we gathered was accurate and detailed. This would be really beneficial to the students listening to our presentation especially those who are interested in the career field we introduced. Besides, we had several rehearsals before the presentation. As a result, our group members were able to present our ideas fluently with only minor mistakes and most importantly, thanks to our thorough preparation, we completed our presentation within the time limit.

Though, we feel satisfies with the project, there are also some reflections on our work as we know that reflecting on ourselves is the way leading success. We found that some of the content included in the PowerPoint used in presentation was too detailed. They should have been concise enough for the audience to read. The elaborated ideas shouldn’t be included in the slides but presented by our mouth. This is a better way to grab the audience’s attention. Another problem is that more interaction between us and the student audience is needed. We can probably include a video clip in the presentation or ask the audience several questions to prevent students from feeling bored or thinking that our presentation is meaningless. They may perhaps turn a deaf ear to us. By considering the above things that could be improved, our project will definitelybe a better one. Learning from mistakes can be a big step forward. We students shouldn’t be too proud in ourselves but should examine one's own conscience.

After taking part in the presentation activity of ‘Career Oscars’, I, from a student’s point of view, personally think that this activity of is better than the careers talks given by alumni or professors at university open days. This presentation is given by our classmates who should know what other students want to know most. They will be able to focus and give presentation on their target audience’s field of interest. In comparison, most students think that the career talks given by professionals are relatively boring or even monotonous. Though undoubtedly, these can be able to provide students with more and accurate information, they would rather prefer listening to other students’ presentation which fits their ‘taste’ and is therefore less boring. Speaking of how interesting the activity is, this ‘Career Oscars’ project is better but if comparing their practicality, perhaps joining career talks is better as these are conducted by the experienced who are qualified to give teaching about life-planning knowledge and skills. I think that the best way for we students to truly understand the essence and what it is like to be working in the field is to get job shadowing experiences. For instance, for the topic we worked on which is about journalism, we believe that it is of utmost importance that before becoming a journalist, the person must join many internship programs to get familiar with the job duties to know in depth about them. Actually, this job shadowing experience provides interns with hands-on experiences that helps them gain understanding of the career. People can also realizetheir own ability and find out whether they are suitable for that job during internship. Allowing you to try things out yourselves as well as getting supervision from the experienced seniors in the company can be enriching and motivating. Students’ interest in the related career can therefore be enhanced.

I hope you all can find my experience mentioned in the article inspiring. Wish you all a fruitful and satisfying career path in the future.