**Product Progress Assessment**

Putting my final product together so far has been an interesting and exciting experience! Over the past couple of months I have written, edited, and published the first article in my series in Frisco Enterprise as well as the Chamber of Commerce website. My second article I have recently finished, after hours and hours of research, and am currently planning my third. Throughout writing my second article I realized that I went way in over my head while planning the number of articles I would do, because research and the roughest of rough drafts took me around 7 hours to complete! Now with re-writing multiple times since this article is a much greater load than the first one, I know I am going to get into 15-20 hours just for one piece because I am trying to make it into a mini research paper that is simultaneously entertaining—not a challenge easily completed.

Due to my overestimation, I am most definitely not staying on track with my planned calendar and in fact plan on changing it after a chat with Karen and churning some ideas around. As environmental journalism is something I am deeply passionate about, my second article about introducing sustainable energy into the city of Frisco is turning into one of my prized possessions the further I get into it. After I showed my first rough draft to Karen, she recommended speaking to some members of city council and trying to bounce some of my ideas off of them and now I plan on taking my final product in a slightly different direction. I feel like the personal purpose of my product should be to encompass as much of journalism and communications as possible, and I feel like my first print article did encompass one part of it, but now I want to see if it is even possible to integrate my sustainable ideas into the city. I mention my new plan to also say that I no longer plan on writing seven articles because it truly is not feasible since I want to go for quality over quantity, and I will be writing either three or four maximum instead. I cannot say for sure if I will write four or three yet because I would first like to see where my work with the second article is taking me, but I am leaning towards four because I would like to try some different writing styles in order to have a more eclectic experience in my independent study. As for my website, I am still working hard on creating that, and I will probably tweak it so that my articles are not lonely on there!

Ultimately, I am pleased with the way my product is turning out, and I am actually having way more fun than I thought I would (basically fun squared). Besides the couple of articles I have left, I need to finish my website, do more research, and talk to my local politicians and try and make a difference! Everything so far is looking better than I ever imagined and I am having successes I never could have fathomed, and that makes me extremely happy. Although, it is important to credit all of the time and effort Karen has put into helping me with my endeavors. I am very thankful to her! She has not only read and given suggestions on my articles, she was the one who spurred me in a new direction with my final product through encouraging me to bring my hopes about sustainability to life and connecting me with who I needed to do it. Plus, she got me published which is amazing. She has done so much for me and keeps on doing things that I will forever be grateful for. I could not be more excited to finish my product and show her the final conglomeration of pieces!