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**Job Reflective Narrative**

On August 27, 2016, I job shadowed a computer engineer that goes by the name of Jaime Zammorah. Now job shadowing a computer engineer wasn’t my plan at first. I originally wanted to job shadow a mechanical engineer due to my interest in the profession. Unfortunately I could not find a mechanical engineer to job shadow so the next best thing was a computer engineer since I could still get an idea of what an engineer does on a daily basis. I was able to find one in Visalia at a company named Kawneer. During the job shadow I was able to see what a computer engineer has to do everyday.

So to start off the day I had to wake up at 5 in the morning. I had to be there by 6am so I had to leave earlier since the company is located in Visalia. I got there 10 min early just to make sure I was punctual. When I first met Jamie, he was pretty excited to have me job shadow him. Knowing that I had already an interest in the field made the experience much more enjoyable. The first thing we did was go to a meeting to discuss the previous days workload and machinery. He has to attend these meeting every morning to make sure everything is working properly and not hindering any production. The meeting was pretty boring but that was because I had no idea what they were talking about.

After the meeting he then began to show me his office. It was pretty cozy and a good size. He told me that this is where he has to fill out all of his paperwork. He told me that the worst part of his job is the paperwork due to the high load he has to fill out. No one likes to do paperwork so its understandable. I certainly wouldn’t like to fill out papers either. Basically what he has to fill out are all the information for the machines to state whether they are fine or need replacing. Throughout the day we had to check all of the computers and machines to make sure nothing was wrong with them. It was pretty interesting to see how some of these computers work and how intricate they are on the inside.

Probably the best part of the job was the ending where we actually got to sit down in his office and try to figure out what we could do to improve the quality of the computer chips for the machines or even creating new programs that could benefit the company in more ways than one. It was very interesting because you get to use your imagination and your thinking skills to try to evolve something into something new and improved. I met many new people on the job as well. They were all nice and fun to hang out with during our lunch break.

On this job shadow, I learned that being an engineer is not just about creating new stuff for the future. You have to make sure that your current products are in working condition and that they stay that way for as long as possible. Then you must also report them to the plant manager through paperwork. So you have to know how each machine works in and out so just in case something does go wrong, you can fix it with ease. You have to be able to problem solve as well. There can be some days where something doesn’t go as planned with the computer or machines and they come to you for a solution.

The part I liked the most was the part when I got to use my imagination for the future. We both had some innovative ideas that could actually be put to the test in the future. It was cool to see how putting two things together that you wouldn’t usually put together could make something valuable. The part that I disliked however was the paperwork of course. It may not seem all that bad at first but it actually is. It takes up a lot of time due to the vast amount of machinery inside the company. It’s one of those things that you don’t want to do but is important nonetheless.

After all that happened I am still interested in becoming a mechanical engineer. Even though I job shadowed a computer engineer, there were still many similarities that they both shared. Being able to use my imagination and problem solving skills is what mainly attracts me to the profession, not to mention that the pay isn’t bad either. At the end of the day, it was a fun and enjoyable experience that I hope to continue, further down the path.