

# LINK Project Proposal

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In our junior year, students of Animas High School are expected to complete a three week internship program with an organization of our choice in order to gather experience from the real world and then apply it to our lives both inside and outside of school. This program will help us to learn how to deal with real work and prepare us for real-world problems. It will be a useful addition to our college resumes as it shows that we have this experience. It does not have to be situated in Durango, and can in fact be located anywhere in the world. For my internship I will be working at the Durango Public Library with Sandy Irwin as my primary mentor and with other librarians guiding me through various areas of the library experience.

The Durango Public Library is a local organization situated along the Animas River, and the mission of this organization is to offer broad and relevant connections, public programming, current technology, and excellent service in a welcoming environment. This is a mission that they strive to achieve and their efforts show in the very atmosphere of the building. The library is a strong and necessary addition to our community known for its contribution to the cultural and intellectual quality of Durango as well as a safe place of gathering for Durango's teenage population.

My primary mentor will be Sandy Irwin, who is the assistant director to the library. Along with her, I also know I'll be working with Abby Lambert, the adult and circulation services supervisor, and Amadee Ricketts, who is the children and teen services supervisor. In addition to working with these three women, I may work with other librarians depending on what is involved in the process of organizing the competition. Amadee has been at the head of the writing competitions in years past and will likely be the person who I coordinate with most when working on my project, working on this year's competition. I look forward to working with all of them very much.

This internship was the perfect opportunity for me for a number of different reasons. One of the chief among them is its relevance to my future. It has long been a dream of mine to become a novelist, or at least a writer. However, most writers can never hope to be able to keep writing as their sole occupations because they just can't earn enough. Teaching English as a second language to students in another country would be another dream job, or having a career that focuses on inter-cultural communications, where I have many chances to work with and understand other cultures. Communication is fascinating to me, and that is why an internship at the library would be so useful to me in the future.

For this project I will be coordinating with library staff in order to organize their annual teen poetry competition. This will involve speaking to English classes, scheduling events, organizing prizes and set up, as well as the guidelines of the project. I may be a judge for the competition as well but that will take place at a time outside of the three week internship period. This is the third year that the competition has been running and my familiarity with the program will help me to contribute it. My insight as part of their target contributor group will allow me to add to the program in a way that I hope will be beneficial to them.

While I haven't yet completed much research for this project, I do have a good deal of previous experience with the library which will be a firm base for all of my research. I will look into the requirements and the processes that were used in years past in order to help to decide what is the best way to format this year's contest.

This project is one which I am looking forward to very much. This is due in part to the fact that I'll be spending it at the library, and I will be able to get to know those in the community there better than I do currently. This is also due to my interest in writing and communication between people. Writing competitions encourage people to engage in communication and to refine their work as they go, which I believe is an invaluable tool that we all can learn. As the days pass I'm sure that the layout for these three wonderful weeks will become more apparent and I look forward to the time

when they do.

**Timeline:**

*Week one:* spend time working with Sandy and with other librarians, learn how the library works and about the requirements of various jobs within the library. Learn how the contest has been run in past years and form a plan based off of that.

*Week two:* begin preparations for the contest: gathering materials, working out details, planning out advertisements. Continue to help out around the library wherever I may be needed and learn more about the library system

*Week three:* Continue preparations for the library contest and start distributing advertisements in whatever form they may take. Make plans for the finishing touches and if there is more to be done after the internship, work out a system in which those details may be completed.