**A Message to You from last year’s students...**

I am learning that I am not as patient as I thought I was. I have never really had a project go completely wrong, especially after weeks of planning the project and having everything ready to go. It is a weird feeling that I have not experienced before and it is hard to accept it. (Esteves 3/13/15)

**We learned that choosing the right person to approach for an interview on the street doesn’t exist. Everyone who lives in New York can express their opinions and has a unique view on every issue. The ideal person to interview is whoever is sitting next to you. (Behar 3/13/15)**

If I were starting over knowing what I know now, I would say, ‘enjoy the mistakes.’ I made so many, but that was when I really learned. Coard 4/20

**I never realized that so many people eating in soup kitchens are not ‘homeless and crazy.’ Once I started to really listen to them instead of my stereotypes, it totally inspired me to work harder on the project. Coard 4/20**

I usually felt overwhelmed by the big projects this year, but found that if I just broke it down and did a little of the process at a time, I could handle it. Zurkow 4/19

**It’s amazing how one little insight can change the whole direction of a project. Coard 4/20**

Our global allies gave us the idea for the lighting when they said that, “although security is not a problem, they also have lots of lights in their parks.” Nicholas 4/17

**Get started right away! You need time to fit everything into your schedule and still be able to change your ideas. Nicholas 4/17**

Our goal for this project was to improve the feeling and the environment of the Edward William School. When we entered the school there was barely any art on the walls in the hallways or the classrooms. This didn’t give a positive but a cold and empty feeling. When we told the students participating in creating their own artwork that their drawing would be hung up, their mood instantly changed. Their faces lit up with excitement and they were very happy. This would give me a feeling of accomplishment if I knew my artwork would be presented for everyone to see. This gave me inspiration to act in other ways. Seeing how happy the kids were looking at their creations made me feel accomplished on my part. I hope to help others in the future.

I learned that even though a project might not start off how you would like it to in the beginning, you still have to give it time and be patient. I learned not to let one set back ruin my motivation to keep working. 5/1 Segale

**I learned that one thing you need to do when doing field research is go in with an open mind and not have any predetermined ideas that way you can be totally open to what the research holds.**

In January, I was very concerned with college and wasn’t focused on the work I was doing in my classes, however knowing that everything with college works out, I would tell myself to take a step back and focus on the present and what I am doing that day either with the projects we were doing in City 2.0 or just in life. I feel like I would have gotten more out of the City experience if I just calmed down and focused myself on the present and not the future.

Sonnenfeld 5/1

**When interacting with the real adult world, I have learned that they expect a different kind of courtesy and respect from kids or our teachers. I still need to learn to give the adult nearly constant eye contact during an interview. After high school, I will use this skill for job interviews because being polite can really impact someone’s decision.**

If I could give myself advice for this project, I would say to do as much field research as possible and interview many people because although John Herrold gave us useful information, we only had one opinion for a while after our interview with him. I would also tell myself to ask more questions Kass 5/1

**In the area of observation I learned that it’s important not to jump on a solution idea right away. That it is important to observe and be mindful before having your heart or mind set in an idea. --Rothberg 5/1**

The only way to find out if you have a talent for something is to try it first hand, and allowing your group members to step outside of their comfort zone and try something may help them find a new talent they never thought they had. This is what my group did for me. --DeNelsky 5/1

**The real world is much more complicated than we might think when we get our information from the internet. And getting information from it is much harder. Information provided by adults and “users” “out there” often contradicts what the in-house research leads you to assume. The in-House research helps you to know what questions to ask, and how to move from what you’re interested in helping to WHO. -Le**

In this project I learned that I like myself better when I get involved. It may be scary and uncomfortable to put yourself out there, but it feels great when you take a chance and it pays off; better than not taking a chance at all. With this project I learned that community participation is key to making change and a city without participation or involvement from its citizens will have a difficult time implementing new ideas or innovating new plans to better the community. If I could give myself advice before this project it would be to not get so nervous; don’t stress about the little things, just take care of your part because that’s all you can do. I was worried about how difficult this project would be, but it turned out just fine.- Selber 5/1

**You just can’t go halfway in this class and expect someone else to pick up your slack. Everything is a process, and if you skip a step you will get cluttered and then everything is a struggle….I no longer want to work in groups with my friends. I now prefer to work with kids with whom I can be friendly but have no outside of school social connection. It gets rid of the personal relationship problems, expecting others to pick up your slack, and makes you more independent. -- Kutik 5/1**

Sometimes you just have to work hard and see what happens….I did not know him at the time, but I was paired up with Mike. I would have preferred to be paired with someone I knew, but it was out of my control. That was one of the best things that happened to me this year, because I made an amazing friend that I will stay in touch with beyond high school.

...we did not seek as much community participation as we should have done, and our project was much weaker than it could have been. We really learned the hard way that it is much easier to fulfill a need than to create one. That’s a very good business lesson going forward. --Michael Johnson 5/1

I used personal interest to find a topic, creativity to find a solution, computer science to carry it out, and history to understand it all. – Schlur ‘16

I learned leadership in this class that I didn’t know I had, and now I use it in other classes and situations, too. –Schepis ‘16

Once I got our team on the agenda of the Community Board meeting, and got a chance to speak there, I became very motivated because I felt our project was actually moving forwards. –Nakazeki ‘16

The interviews have to be backed up with in-house research. That’s how you can make a convincing case. Fan ‘16

I am so much more eager and fit to make a difference and “future-proof” aspects of my society. –Knaack ‘16

Learning to work WITH communities instead of FOR them was one of the hardest and best things I’ve ever done. –Nakazeki ‘16

It was amazing to see the ideas we talked about implemented in the real world—like Fulton Center. –Elcik ‘16

I imagined being a young child in that neighborhood and tried to picture what I would want as an activity to do after school or on weekends. This helped me and my team…. –McKenna ‘16

I grew after hearing a negative review of my idea from Ms. Yokana. It was hard to hear, but made me realize that I needed to understand how things work in the real environment. –Barlow ‘16

I am a much more innovative thinker now. I did not think it was possible to change the way you think. –Wasserberger ‘16

I love ideation. You think it is silly, but it really gets you to think outside of the box. Now I use it to solve all kinds of problems. –Marini ‘16

My team taught me that there are a lot of ways to look at things—not just mine.