



5.14分享会 - 芝加哥大学校友分享设计课题经验

Hi, My name is Charlotte, and I am a current senior at Phillips Academy Andover and I will be attending UChicago in the fall. So for my project topic or title after the Design and Design Thinking program that I took during the summer through Eureka with Professor Michael Shanks from Stanford, I've settled on the topic of, I decided to write about Machu Picchu. And independent research is one of the two most important extracurricular activities in which I partook through my high school career. And over the past two summers, I wrote two research papers under two different professors.

During the summer after my tenth grade, I was part of a research and writing program called Design and Design Thinking through Eureka and this program was under the guidance of Professor Michael Shanks, who is a professor at Stanford of like classics and archaeology. In the first part of the program, we reviewed many case studies both in history and from everyday life today to build awareness of how design works. And in the second half of the program, we each picked individual research topics that we worked on with Professor Shanks, with the goal of producing a paper by the end of the course. And for me personally, I chose to focus on researching Machu Picchu and how architects, um I chose to focus on researching Machu Picchu and how architects played a crucial role in the Inca civilization.

I was inspired to write about Machu Picchu after my patterns of civilization history course that I took in ninth grade at my previous high school. My teacher assigned us a few readings and a few chapters from this book by Jared Diamond called "Guns, Germs, and Steel", which I read after the summer of ninth grade. And at first, this book to me just seemed like one of those books that we read during the summer and would never end up discussing. But as I was reading this book, I was actually very intrigued and inspired by what Diamond was saying. This book sparked my interest in learning more about cultural anthropology and its role in history. And actually, the summer right before my family and I took a trip to Peru, where we traveled to Machu Picchu and climbed the mountain and looked at the architecture of it and that is what initially inspired me to pick this topic and write about it.

As I talked about previously, on the last slide, the academic topics that are highlighted in my paper consisted of anthropology and history. And actually, the title of my paper was Machu Picchu and the Secret to the Sublime. And in my paper, I decided to focus on three specific parts of the design. First how Machu Picchu epitomizes the Inca empire's success through its display of extraordinary craft, and my second point was the integration to the cosmos and the universe as a whole. And third, was how much of the Incans were able to convert their surroundings into food through like terraces and how the architecture played a crucial role in that.

I had a great overall experience with Professor Shanks. He was really helpful in the beginning half of the course with describing what design and design thinking meant to us and providing



many different examples of that and how it applies to our everyday lives, while also pushing us to think about how we could apply it in other aspects of our lives. He was always available to having many conferences, as many conference periods as you wanted with him, where you could discuss and revise your thesis and overall research topic as well as provide many helpful resources throughout the whole of research.

It was pretty easy to keep a good relationship with my professor and my peers as well since we had so many group discussions in the first half of the program. And I do think that the professors at Eureka really care about the students and overlook the whole research process while also allowing the student to drive and explore different aspects on their own.

To be honest. at first, I was a little bit nervous about the whole research process and the whole program as a whole. um, since oftentimes I can be shy in like bigger group discussions. However, I don't really think if your child is shy, it will affect how a professor sees him or her since there are many opportunities to have one on one meetings with the professor and for the professor to learn more about your child in one to one setting.

Overall, I really enjoyed taking the Design and Design Thinking course at Eureka. And I think overall, the project really allowed me to dive deeper into a topic that I was already interested in and do more research in that field while also working closely with the, with the university professor and getting a taste of how the whole research process in college works.

I also decided to submit my overall research paper to The Concord Review as well as the Open Access Journal of Archaeology & Anthropology at the end of the course, which I wrote about a little bit in my college admissions process and file.

For me personally, I used this Eureka project on Machu Picchu as well as the other one that I did during the summer of my eleventh grade going into twelve grade on my university applications as a way to provide intel into how, academic vitality and as an opportunity to display how I was able to dive into topics that I actually care about while also being a high school student. I feel like at school when a student writes a paper for a history class or English class, most of the time, it's just to like get it done, and you don't really get to explore topics that actually interest you. But through this summer program, I was really able to explore something that actually mattered to me, which I reflected about in my college admissions process. It also provides a great platform for a student to connect with the professor from the top university and get a taste of what research is like in college and the whole research process from a younger age, so we are prepared when we going to college.