

A Day in the Concrete Jungle

As we weaved throughout city locals, famous buildings and speeding bikers, it all felt very real. *This could be me*, I thought to myself. Wrapped in winter layers, coffee in hand, my Career Quest group and I became professionals for the day. Each company provided a new and exciting outlook on the media industry. The experience surpassed all my expectations. It allowed me to envision what life would be like as a professional in the media industry, working and living in New York City. While I was excited for the all companies we were scheduled to see, I was impressed with the intimate nature of the meetings. Each company treated us respectfully, professionally and happily, each one offering a unique take on their presentation. My favorite was Bustle, who in their typical laid-back nature, brought in a panel of four of their editors. Once the panelists began talking, the entire mood of the meeting changed. These acclaimed editors and writers were talking to us as equals, as they laughed and told old stories about their journey into the industry. It was refreshing to view them as not just employers or journalists, but rather, as people who, not too long ago, were in the same position I am in now. As I listened to each unique career path, I learned that my major does not define what I do or who I want to be--- it is never too late to change my career. These meetings transcended into relationships. After I left Career Quest, amidst the incoming snow storm, I emailed each employer to thank them in hopes of keeping in touch. Within a day, each one wrote back, both excited and eager to connect. I think the employers reaction is telling of this trip. It was a group of students who are determined to be successful in the media industry combined with employers who want to empower and guide our generation of millennials. I feel very privileged to have had this opportunity and I genuinely believe it was a pivotal step in my career path. My advice to future students interested in Career Quest, is that what you put into it is what you get out of it. Each meeting can be another learning experience or a future job opportunity, it is up to you to decide what it will be.