

Apollo

Stepping into the classroom on the first day of school my junior year, I was oblivious to the semester ahead of me. I was ready to start a new chapter in my high school career, which is why I joined a class called Apollo: a project-based course that allows you to explore your passions as they relate to three different subjects--art, English, and social studies. Before joining Apollo, I never considered myself a creative person. All of my classes were in the traditional classroom setting and although I did well, I felt as if I could be doing something more. This is when I realized Apollo was the perfect fit for me. I was able to expand my knowledge in things I was actually interested in and explore my imagination to create products that meant something to me. One of my fondest memories I have in this class is a project where I created braille.

My very first project I created in Apollo was focused on students and civilians that are blind and visually impaired. The blind and visually impaired community has always been an interest of mine and what we as a community and state did to help them. I started this project small focusing on our community. For the start of the project I conducted a small survey asking teachers what they would do to help accommodate students that were blind or visually impaired. With this information and further research, I compared the states regulations with what our school provided. This then inspired me to write a proposal to our state, stating what we need to do better to better help the blind and visually impaired. After learning what our community needed to fix, I decided to write three poems through the perspective of people who are blind. These people were of different ages and gender. For the final step, a decision was made that would help pull the whole project together- create a piece of braille out of one of the poems that was written. This braille piece helped connect my art, history, and English all together.

The original reason why this topic was chosen is because I felt as if the Blind community did not get much attention and they were being overlooked by most people. There are several blind resource centers that are setting out to help the blind community, but they are very limited. By doing this project my knowledge of the blind grew greatly and a goal was to keep expanding my knowledge throughout our school and our community. By doing this I hoped to gain more advocates and spread to the public how important this issue was. Doing this project was a big eye-opener for me . I learned that the blind community was living in the shadows, as most people never made it an obligation to focus on bettering their community and make their day-to-day lives easier.

Throughout the whole process of this project I learned a lot about who I am as a learner and innovator. This project also helped me shape my ideas and capabilities for the rest of the semester. I learned that I can create something from a small idea and turn it into something cool and unique. This course has taught me an abundance of beneficial things for my future and I have gained so much confidence in my abilities to create and fabricate different things from small ideas. In this course I learned that it is about the process not the product, meaning, the plan, research, drafting, and build is what makes your project, because the product does not always turn out as planned.

