H Reflection

For our project my partner and I decided to collect signatures for a petition to have a crosswalk installed on 29th Avenue, Windermere Street and Manor Street. To accomplish our goal of 800 signatures, we went to decided to go door to door in the surrounding neighbourhood as well as go to students in the school. Our further goals after this week are to talk to our local MLA, Adrian Dix and asks him to sign the petition and write a letter of support in our favour.

I found right away that it was hard to convince people to sign our petition, with excuses such as not walking through that area, or the most frustrating one; not wanting to put down their address or even “forgetting” it. It was also hard to find a time to announce it to the class without interrupting a lesson and hard to get everyone's attention. There was also the problem of people who would just be too lazy to even sign or would forget about it at the end of the class so I would always anticipate more signatures per class then I would actually get. Though there were many struggles within the school to collect signatures, there still were many positive experiences that I had, such as getting to talk to some of the students I normally don’t interact with in my photography class and band class.

Our next step was to go door to door in the community and surrounding neighbourhood to collect signatures. I have solicited door to door before, but mostly just handing out flyers, not asking for something, which I found much harder. When Ava and I went out the first time, hardly anyone would answer the door, let alone want to sign. We experience a lot of rejection but the few people who encouraged the idea and signed were a relief. I went around my neighbourhood as well because there are quite a few students in the area and it was interesting to hear about how many of the adults went to Windermere and knew the spot where we wanted the crosswalk and approved of the idea. Going door to door in the community helped me strengthen my confidence in communication skills, because I had to be clear and concise for people to listen and want to sign. It also took a lot of time and patience to go door to door and wait to see if someone would answer or if we had to move on. This project really helped me to

remember to look past the numbers that we often get stuck on and instead think about what I have gained and what I have improved in upon doing this project. It is always really easy for me to think about what I didn’t get (in this case, when people didn’t want to sign or wouldn’t open the door) but I had to remind myself that there was a lot that I still did accomplish and I did work hard and tried my best in this project.

The last goal we had was to get a letter of support and signature from our local MLA Adrian Dix. We emailed him first and after a couple days of no response, we went into his office and unfortunately he was not in but we left a letter explaining our project with our contact and we will go in again next week.

The benefits of this goal for ourselves was also to improve our communication skills and practice working formally with people outside of school.

Overall the first half of the project was very challenging but rewarding in many ways. I felt myself stretched many times to work outside of my comfort zone but also knew I could push myself further. The plan for the rest of the project is to collect the remaining signatures before spring break and then bring all the sheets to the city and propose the crosswalk. This will also stretch me because I will have to work hard at following through with my goals and not just ignoring or slacking off on them. In conclusion I am very happy Ava and I chose this as our project and am grateful that it pushed me to work harder and step out of my comfort zone.

A

When my partner and I heard saw and heard about students risking their own safety and the safety of others, just to cross the street while walking home. My partner and I decided to base our compassion project around benefiting the community by placing a crosswalk in a convenient location, 29th, Manor, and Windermere Street. Our objective from this project was to obtain 800 signatures and obtain a letter with a signature from our local MLA Adrian Dix. These smaller actions would lead to Hannah and I gave the petition and letter to the City of Vancouver to guarantee the safety of the local, residents in our area.

Our first course of action was to go door to door in the surrounding area of the crosswalk, we also needed to talk to students about signing our petition. From day one Hannah and I realized that this project would be a tough challenge to fulfill. We noticed many people felt uncomfortable signing a petition where their address had to be written down. This was especially a problem with students that Hannah and I weren’t close friends with, I was even informed that they would sign, only if they didn’t have to add their address. Even though this problem was apparent in students, this dilemma was nothing to worry about while going door to door, most likely because we were already at their home. A major obstacle that had to be tackled was when we went door to door people seemed like they didn’t have the time to talk to us, or even just thinking they lived too far away to the potential crosswalk making the crosswalk unbeneficial to them. Throughout this project, I realized what a massive number of 800 truly is, and recognized how

much time it would take to reach our goal. Though the number was vast and the amount of time scary, we encountered many more obstacles while doing this project. Going door to door asking for signatures was where Hannah and I encountered many forms of rejection. Some families would flat out say “no”, others just told us to leave, but the most common would be to not answer the door even when the residents were clearly home. This project taught me a great deal about patience and to respect the solicitors coming to the door because it is extremely difficult to put yourself out there in such a way.

After receiving an astonishingly low number of signatures from going door to door, Hannah and I went to our classes and other classrooms to gather signatures. Personally, this was one of the hardest aspects of this project, this made me feel quite embarrassed and nervous. The difference between the door to door, and getting signatures from school, is that you never have to see the people that you are getting signatures from again, whereas with students, I have to see them almost every day of my life for three more years. After the initial embarrassment, I encountered another struggle, the amount of time it takes for people to sign, with only one piece of paper this process took quite a while. With teachers only giving me five minutes at the end of class to was difficult for students to get the petition to everyone. With this experience I did counter some positive outlooks, I realized that many of the more unapproachable students in my classes were really nice and not as scary as I once would have thought.

The last step to our compassion project was for Hannah and me to write a letter to our local MLA, Honourable Adrian Dix. Even though we haven’t heard back from Mr. Dix, I still ended up learning quite a bit from our letter. Firstly, always add contact information, we neglected to add this in our handwritten letter, and were kindly reminded by the secretary, that this was a crucial element to remember. We also learned that it would be immensely beneficial to look at the hours of business before arriving to the office. In conclusion, this project was a great challenge and learning experience, helping both of us make time in our schedules and spend hours obtaining signatures of Vancouver citizens. Because of this, we learned determination and adaptability, once we were rejected we had to recover and be prepared to go to the next home to solicited even better than the time before. By the end of this project, Hannah and I had a great method of a quick and concise speech to say at the beginning, clearly conveying our goal and what they can do to help.

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| Outputs | Short-term Outcomes | Long-term Outcomes | Indicators (Quantitative Proof) | Data Collection Method (How you measured the output) |
| Obtaining signatures on a  petition and bringing it to our local MLA as well as the City  of Vancouver | Bringing awareness to community about the dangers of crossing in a busy intersection. | Recognition that the students from Windermere care about their safety and want to help benefit the community. | 310 signatures, 19 pages of petitions and 100 houses door to door. | * Collecting door to door signatures * Speaking to students in the halls and classrooms * Collecting signatures from friends and   family |
| New crosswalk at the corner of 29th, Manor Street and Windermere Street. | Safety in our local community, students will be able to travel to school with ease. | Reduce jay walking and also tickets given to drivers or pedestrians. Making our local neighbourhood more safe and crime free. | Approved by city | TBD |
| Collecting Signature from High School Students and Teachers | Getting to know students in other grades and integrate leadership projects into mainstream. | Building stronger relationships between leadership and mainstream as well as connecting with students we don’t know as well. | 310 supporters of the crosswalk, and ensuring the safety, and convenience for the local community Collecting signatures during class time and break from students and teachers of Windermere. | - door to door collecting signatures  -speaking to students in the halls and classrooms  -collecting signatures from friends and family |
| Contacting our local MLA Adrian Dix to ask for letter of support and to sign our petition. | Connecting Leadership with community and work with MLA to improve the neighbourhood. | TBD | Brought to the city and now approved | TBD |
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**Reasoning:** In this project we put in a great amount of effort and time to promote the benefits a crosswalk in the Renfrew Collingwood neighbourhood would have, therefore creating a safer community for both students and drivers. We stretched our comfort zone by going door to door to people whom we do not know and trying to convince them to sign our petition. We also had to practice our charisma in the classroom to try to promote our leadership project to the mainstream students of Windermere. Both these goals were challenging and pushed us to work hard even with the risk of failure and rejection. While doing this project, we clearly understood the need in our community to have a crosswalk installed to ensure safety and convenience for everyone. Though we are only at the halfway goal of our project, we will still work hard to obtain our goal of 700 signatures and then bring it to the city to review, which will hopefully lead to the construction of a crosswalk.

**Proof of Progress: 19 pages of petitions**

