

Alif Kazi

URA Spring 2024 Reflection Blog

Working with Dr. An and the rest of the mentees was a great first-time experience as a researcher. As an English major, research papers are a vital part of my classes. Working with my team, we found articles during the spring relating to ways that Asian-American high school students could find different forms of therapy (art, writing, etc..) to help contribute to their writing process. As an Undergraduate Research Assistant, learning from the research librarians and experiencing how non-linear and expansive research can be, as well as a greater appreciation for Asian American history are things that I found helpful this Spring.

The visits we had with the librarians were particularly helpful. I have had many interactions with the Hunter librarians in the classrooms and at every instance, I have learned something new. With Professor Pell's visit at the library, I learned how to search for key terms, which were astoundingly helpful in gathering sources for our overall annotated bibliography.

Conducting research, I learned that it's not something linear. Instead, there is a lot of constructing and deconstructing the path that my research is going through. I've also learned that even if I am told to find four sources, I would realistically be going through more than four, maybe even ten to twelve until I find four sources that I believe would be best suited for my research. Although it is a lot of work, scouring through the different research articles, journals, chapters, and books, finding research and making connections with different sources and my object of inquiry are something that captivate me.

Researching Asian Americans has also caused me to pursue a minor in Asian American Studies. I believe it would complement my English Major well, especially when looking at

writing written by Asian Americans and how to place their perspectives in a Black and White America, especially when looking at the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century.

This summer I am conducting research as both a summer URA for HCAP as well as a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow. The research skills I've learned through HCAP's URA program has helped exponentially for my work in the classroom and outside the classroom as well, causing me to have a greater thirst for research and making connections.