

JENNIFER



VERMET

Step 1

IDEATE MORE PROPOSITIONS

- **more memorable**
- more organized
- more confident
- more initiative
- **more professional**
- more reliable
- more timely
- more authentic
- more filtering or thoughts turning into words
- more organized
- more engaged
- more of a true listener
- more opportunistic
- more open to confrontation
- more independent
- more attentive to detail
- more direct
- more proper
- more opinionated
- less analytical
- less overwhelmed
- **less fearful of rejection**
- less flaky
- less about popularity
- less talkative or meaningless things
- less cares about what other think
- less naive

My more and less propositions that I created surrounded the theme of becoming more professional in my day to day life. I have never considered myself as coming off to people as a proper professional. I am a young adult and I want to start acting like one while also seeing myself as one. You will see in my next step, I used the tool of design thinking to depict what a professional is defined as. I created many what-if scenarios that I struggled to come up with that were ways I could merge my personal life with my professional life. I thought of different unprofessional atmospheres that I could still show through on my professional qualities.

C4

Step 2

DESIGN THINK

1. What is being MORE PROFESSIONAL?

- reliable- timely
- follows through on promises
- gets the job done
- get your work done and do not settle
- do more than expected
- do what say and say what can do
- be humble in the praise of others
- share your knowledge
- say thank you
- keep a smile on your face and the right attitude
- written correspondence
- demeanor should exude confidence but not confidence
- phone etiquette
- presentable
- neat in appearance
- well postured
- competent
- ethical
- respectable
- funny in an intelligent light
- filter my thoughts and know when to be put together
- being accountable for decisions made

2. What if I?

- wore a pantsuit to the bar
- smiled during my whole walk to class
- gave everyone around me my business card
- messaged LinkedIn professionals every day
- allowed anyone to call me throughout the day and I still addressed myself in an appropriate manner
- Invited random people over to share my knowledge on finance
- what if I held on workshop on how to use excel since I am almost certified
- what if I wrote thank you cards to all my professors for impacting my learning experience from this semester and the last
- emailed my freshman year professors despite it being long overdue (to update them on my life if they even care)
- emailed my dutch e-business professor
- read the news every morning and:
 - share he knowledge verbally with my house
 - wrote the key takeaways on my website
 - journaled about it on my blog
- step up and act accountable for my decisions made in adpi that they viewed as missteps
- wrote down challenges I have faced shared it and had people ask me about them in a crowded room people
 - purpose to face ambiguity of questions
 - have every bartender rate how poised I present myself
- **ask all my professors to evaluate my performance within their class aside from my grades**



Step 2 Continued

3. What Works?

My "What if" actions all are within my resources to pursue.

4. What Wows?

Contacting all my professors from this past semester to evaluate my performance within their class aside from my grades.

This wows me and seems great because it seems like a great idea to me becoming less uneasy with direct feedback. In the business world, I am going to have to ask for direct feedback. The good and the bad. I might as well get practice now while I still can in my final weeks of being a college student.

CONVERGENT QUESTION

What will make the largest impact in my life?

I chose the above risk because it will make the largest impact on my life in the long run.

SILENCE MY VOJ

- Your professors will think that you are weird
- I already am humiliated enough by my poor grades in their classes
- What if they have nothing to say because they don't even know you
- What if they don't respond to your emails or text messages to meet
- Is it even worth your time
- you already hated the dutch directness culture, why volunteer for that
- what's the point
- You should focus on your final exams instead of stupid soft skills that are not quantifiable to future employers
- Why does this even matter how you are as a student
- Why put yourself in a negative light when you could choose to make appointments to talk about more positive things
- you're wasting time
- you might not graduate so go back to the library and study finance
- whatever small relationship you developed with each professor will be ruined once they feel uncomfortable evaluating your performance
- it's just an email, they get hundreds of those every day probably
- what makes you so important



Step 3

TAKE THE RISK

Depending on my relationship with my professors, I am personalizing the way I go about asking for their feedback and advice in a professional manner. I created a 6 question survey that I sent out with each of my professors to evaluate me in a way that they are evaluated on a scale.

Two of my professors I feel more comfortable talking about my performance with because I have spent more time talking and developing a relationship with. With my management professor, I have set up a meeting to discuss my performance and future goals via text message. With my Friedman, I will be setting up a SOLO appointment for next week

The other three are my finance professors who I frequent their office but typically in a reactive way. The current class that I am failing, I have been to his office twice a week in a proactive manner for the final exam. I asked him how to be a better student and he said that I am already doing what I need to. For post-college continuous learning to consider more school or the CFA and to keep reading books in my free time. My other two professors have agreed to meet the last week of class. I am dreading these meetings as I feel they will be rather uncomfortable and awkward meetings.

Below is my correspondence with my least favorite professor at Miami thus far. I am very curious and scared for what he has to say to me.



Vermet, Jennifer <vermetjl@miamioh.edu>

2:26 PM (2 hours ago) ☆



to Kihun ▾

Hi Professor Kim,

I would like to meet to go over my last exam during your office hours next Monday at 3:30pm.

Additionally, I would like your feedback as a professor evaluating my performance as a student. I evaluate you, so it seems fair that you evaluate me as well. We could discuss this further in your office. I have realized that post-grad, I will not have grades posted on Canvas to notify me where I am lacking. I would prefer to know now where I can improve.

Finally, I have been doing some self-reflecting during my last semester of college and would love to hear any advice you have about the "real world" and pursuing personal growth in your life and career.

I hope you have a good weekend!

Best regards,
Jennifer



Kim, Kihun

5:00 PM (5 minutes ago) ☆



to me ▾

Hi Jennifer,

Monday works great for me. I will see you then.

Have a nice weekend!



Step 4

FAIL

I failed on this C4 because I know every relationship with every person is unique, but I wish I had been more proactive in my relationships with my professors that I feel inferior and uncomfortable around.

I feel like it is too late to actually make up for being a poor student if when I find out how my professors evaluate me is very poor. They will not be able to see my improvement and how I can put forth the effort to improve my weaknesses.

I found myself surpassing limit since I will have to pretend to be "okay" but will be very emotional after being evaluated poorly for my actual grade in the class and as a student, even though I thought I put forth a lot of time and effort in each of my courses. I hate feeling blindsides and not being able to know what people think of me. It is hard for me to demonstrate that my priorities are pulled all over and that something comes easier to me than others. This all factors into my studies and my professionalism as a young adult. It was very challenging for me to silence my VOJ and think of where my limits are and how much further I could go. I am still in an active search to becoming more professional, but I believe getting direct feedback and dealing with the uncomfortable environment of pursuing negative traits about me is a good step in the right direction.

Something else I failed in this C4 journey was that I felt crunched in terms of time and figuring out how to execute and choose my idea to go with. I bottle up so many ideas and thoughts in my mind. I ended up switching between make it happen techniques and letting it happen during long drives, swim, and runs alone. Once I got a jolt of my risk to take I was immediately wowed and made it work by sending out emails to actually meet in person with my professors in the dwindling amount of time I have left with them. In the design thinking tool there is a gap between my What if and What wows because I was so wowed by my idea that I just went with my gut that it was the right idea even if it did not seem attainable to get all this feedback before the end of the year. When I finally chose to take the risk in step 3, my VOJ said I did not have enough time, but I do not want to live my life with regret of not knowing what my professors think of me on a professional ground as a student.