

**Little Free Library Project**  
**May 2018**  
**Personal code: gty728**



**Table of Contents:**

**CAS Project Reflection Essay:**

**pp. 2**

**Experiences/Evidence:**

**pp. 3-20**

**Final interview reflection:**

**pp. 21**

### **CAS Project Reflection Essay**

The CAS project that me and my group did meets the requirements for doing 2 of the 3 requirements: creativity, action, and service. Our project met the requirements for action and service. It meets these requirements because our project was building a little library for the community around our school. This required action to do the planning, building, and installing of the library. It applies to the service aspect of the CAS project because we were helping the community around the school by installing the library. It was something that we did not have to do, yet we did because we felt that it would help the community and we wanted to do it.

During the project, we encountered some problems, but we overcame them. One problem was that the school was not going to pay for the supplies to build the project. We got around the obstacle by asking friends and family if they had the necessary materials to build the library. For the things that they did not have, we split the cost so it was even and fair in the group.

On the other hand, we also had success in this project. The building process brought out the best in me personally because I was the member most in charge of building. I had to work many hours on the project in order to get it done. One of the hardest days was when we painted the library. We put on a coat of primer and two coats of paint, and we literally had to wait for each layer to dry before putting the next on. It took about 8 hours total in one day to paint the whole library. The project also brought out the best in my group members because they had to help with the logistics and planning of the project. Working in a group on such a large project was a challenge, but we definitely did a good job to complete the library and do our action and service.

**Reflection 1 04-26-17**

3. Explain your leadership role for this project such as planning and initiating activities?

My leadership role in this project thus far has been very large. I have really been the one doing all of the work. I don't mean to put any of my group members down, but I have scheduled everything and done everything so far. When we were initially told that the project ideas were due, I went to my friends and said that we should work in a group and that we should take the little libraries idea. I knew that it was a good idea, so I emailed Mr. McKenna right away about it. He responded and said that we could have the idea because we reached out to him first. I set up a group chat with our group members in it to make sure everyone knows what was going on and tell my friends when things are due. We also collaborated on things such as the CAS proposal. Another thing that I took a leadership role in was setting up meetings. I set up our first meeting with Mr. McKenna to discuss the idea and start rolling. I also was the one to set up the group meeting with Mr. Stepnowsky. I let my friends know when these things were using the group chat that I set up. I really would like to do good on this project, even though it's not really a grade, so I am trying to motivate my friends to do that with me.

**Reflection 2 05-10-17**

4. How will you work collaboratively with others in your project?

Since the last reflection, I have really only done one thing that would contribute hours towards CAS. This service experience was when I cleaned up for the wings auction. The Sunday morning of the weekend that the auction was held on, a bunch of kids from the rugby team and I came to the school and helped the staff clean up. We helped pick up all of the chairs and tables that were used the night before. Also, we took down drapes and frames were used to cover the hallways and make the school look good inside. This experience relates to working collaboratively because the tables and chairs were heavy, so we all worked together to carry them. Working together really helped to make the work easy and it ended up going by faster than we all expected. This helped me to learn that all work is easier when it is done with help. Working collaboratively will always help to get the job done easier and fast.

**Reflection 3 05-31-17**

1. What are some of your strengths? What areas of personal growth do you think you will gain from doing your CAS project?

My group has not done much to contribute to our CAS project yet. We found out that other things contribute to CAS, so our project is probably too big. We are probably going to scale the project back so that it is more manageable. Regarding this question, I will be reflecting from another CAS experience that I am partaking in. This year, I started a small landscaping business to earn some money for college. It has really taken up a lot of my time recently, but I am getting money for the work and doing the work is always a workout. It is beneficial because I get money, a good workout, and I gain business experience from the whole thing. Some of the strengths that I have in this area are the actual skills of landscaping and lawn care. I am good at

doing the actual work and making the properties look good. There are a few areas of personal growth that I can identify. First, I need to improve the way in which I bid jobs. I need to practice and gain more experience with this because I either go too high and don't get the job, or go too low and end up working the job for not a lot of money. I think that the best way to improve this skill is just to gain experience. It will come with time.



**Reflection 4 06-21-17**

6. What area of global importance is your project impacting (local, national or international community)?

The project that my group has chosen to conduct is affecting the local area. We are trying to assist with the goal of tackling illiteracy around Cleveland. We are doing this by building a little library that we will install at St. Eds. Anyone (child or adult) will be able to come to the library and take a book (or multiple.) Access to books will help this issue because reading is how to overcome illiteracy. Also, the fact that the people will not necessarily have to return the books might be attractive. I think this is really going to help people because a parent can come and get a book for their child to read or look at instead of just playing video games or other things that don't really contribute to the development of a child. With regard to progress, my group is yet to do anything. Literally minutes before I wrote this reflection, I texted them all and tried to get things going. I was just on vacation for two weeks so we were unable to do anything. Now that I am back, I am trying to organize the building of the library ASAP so we can get the hard part done. It won't be too hard, but actually getting four boys together during the summer to work on a school project can be harder than it seems. I think that I will be able to get the group going and get the library built within a week or two. Regarding my personal work with bidding work for my company, I have gotten somewhat better. I am starting to get better responses from customers and a better rate of return on the estimates that I do.

**Reflection 5 07-05-17**

5. How will you overcome possible obstacles for your project?

Any obstacle that we encounter during this project will be overcome by working with the group. My group has a group chat that we all communicate in and I think that any problem we have can be fixed with the chat. We all think about the project and throw out ideas that we could use for the project. As an update from the last reflection, we have made some very small steps. Within the groupchat, the members keep texting multiple times a week, which to me, means that they are all thinking about it and wanting to get going. I emailed Mr. Kubrak about the changes that we made, reducing from four libraries to one, and also regarding funding for the materials. I want to know where the money is coming from before I actually go and buy the material and start building the library. I think that the responsibilities will be divided up between the group. I think that I will be doing the building of the library and then passing it one to another member for painting. I still feel that I am doing a majority of the work so far, but that is ok, as I feel more comfortable doing the things myself.

**Reflection 6 07-26-17**

2. What new challenges and skills are you undertaking by conducting your project?

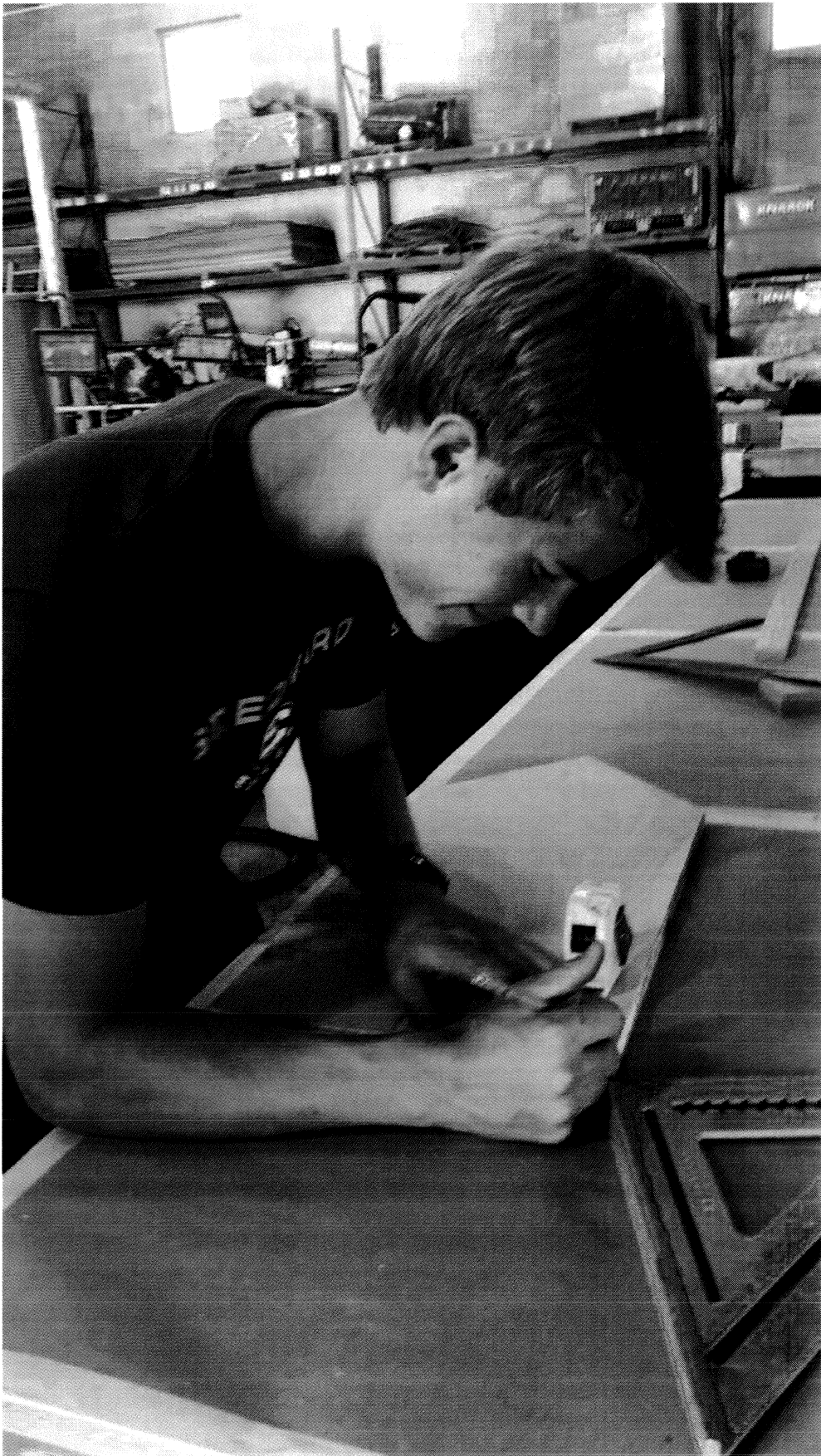
I am not really taking on any new skills or challenges with this project that I have not seen before. I have experience with building things and using tools and working with a group and any

other sort of challenge that could arise in a project of this sort. Honestly, I would say the hardest thing is actually working on it. It is summer and nobody likes to do school work in the summer. I am suffering procrastination on this project and with all of my other summer work that I have to do. I always say I will work on it tomorrow or something like that and I never do. I will most likely be pushing everything into the last week or two before starts, because that is how I work best and more efficiently under pressure. Regarding the project, we have made some progress from last time. Me and Mike went to Home Depot and bought most of the supplies that we will need to build the library. I just have to get around to building it. Everything else is mostly ready. I have to figure out where we are going to put it on campus at Eds also. I hope we do not need a permit or anything to dig a hole on the grounds. Beyond that, we know which direction we are going to go with the project, we just have to get around to doing it.

### **Reflection 7 08-16-17**

7. Are there any ethical concerns for your project? If so, how will you address them?

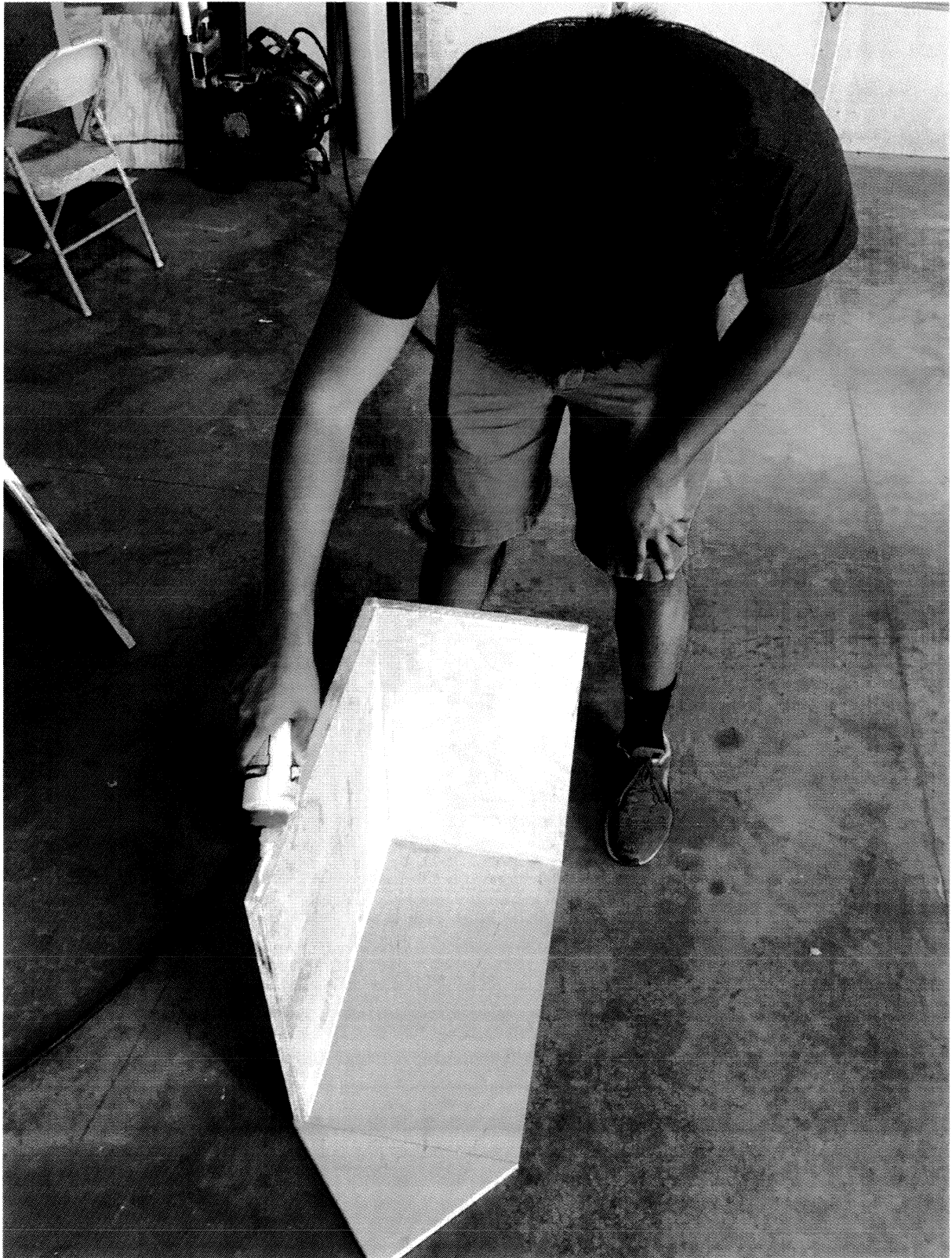
There are really no ethical concerns regarding our project. Our project is simply concerned with helping to get books to children in communities with lower literacy rates than others. I only chose to use this question because it was the last one that I have not done a reflection on yet. As an update on the project, we have actually made a lot of progress. Last weekend me, Emilio, and my dad went up to my grandpa's woodshop and made up all of the big pieces of the library. We assembled the main housing also. The next day, me and my grandpa built the face frame and door pieces. Currently, we have most of the woodwork done. We need to paint it, assemble to door with the plexiglass, and put everything together. We are getting close to finishing the project. We need to also figure out how we are going to put in on a post and get it to stick in the ground. We will use a 4x4 for the post, but I'm not sure if we will need to use cement in the hole when we dig it. I also have to email someone to ask where and if we will even be able to put the library in the ground on St. Eds' property. I also have to then figure out how to start up the club that will look after the maintenance and books of the library and talk to the book bank about getting books. It is a lot of work, but it is something that is enjoyable, so it is not very taxing to do the work.







Worker Pete



**Reflection 8 08-30-17**

3. Explain your leadership role for this project such as planning and initiating activities?

From the last time that I reflected on this question, nothing much has changed. I continue to be the leader of the majority of things that we do regarding the project. I have done the majority of the work building it and painting it and suspect that I will have to do a lot to get it finished. For an update on my progress on the project, the library is almost finished. We have assembled everything except for a few of the pieces. The shelf is not in yet, and the door is assembled, but not attached. Everything is painted except for the shelf because I forgot to paint it. All that remains to do to build the library is put on the door, the door handle, and the shelf, then put shingles on the roof and paint the shelf. I will probably end up touching up paint spots that got messed up while I was assembling the library. Then, I'll have to attach the library to the post and put it in the ground. I have to talk to Mr. McKenna about where I will put the library at Ed's and if I need any licenses. Beyond that, just some administrative things remain to do. These include setting up the club and talking to the book bank.



**Reflection 9 9-13-17**

2. What new challenges and skills are you undertaking by conducting your project?

One challenge that I am facing with this project now is getting it done. School has started back up and with it, came the homework overload and stress that IB causes. It is very hard to find time to go and work on the project between school, homework, sports, running my own business, and living an actual life. My weekends are always packed full with all kinds of things surrounding those main activities. We are very close to finishing, we just have to go up to the shop and do it. Since last entry, we put in brackets to hold the shelf and primed the shelf. Now all that remains is painting the shelf green and gold, putting the door on, and putting on shingles. After that, that library itself will be done, but we will still have to attach the bracket to the bottom which will hold it to the 4x4. Then, I will take it up to Ed's and talk to Mr. McKenna about where to go from there. We already talked to him about it and he said to just get it up to his office and then he will have the maintenance crew look at it and figure out what needs to be done to get it in place. I'm not sure if that means that they install it, but I'm sure I will find out.

**Reflection 10 10-4-17**

4. How will you work collaboratively with others in your project?

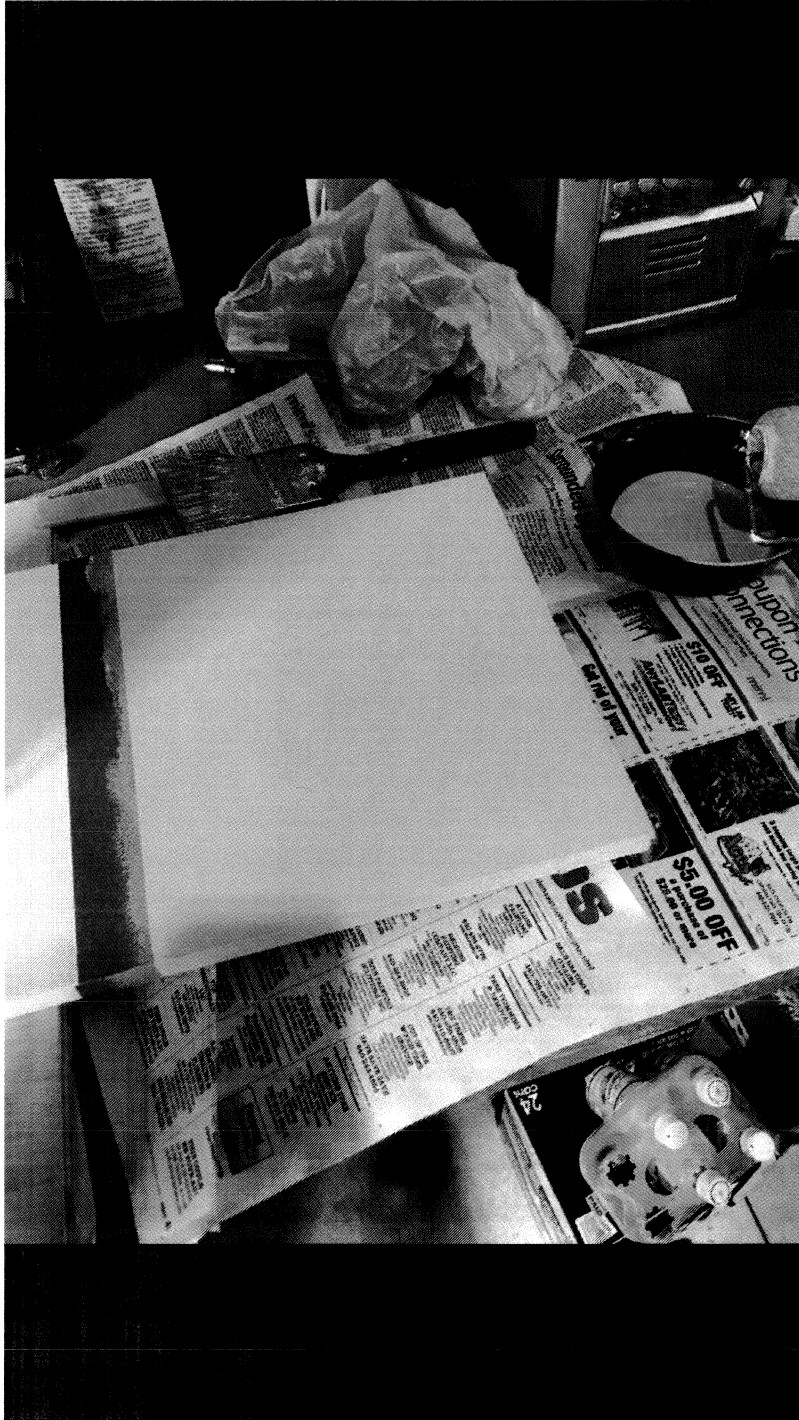
Working collaboratively on this project has been sort of a challenge. One of my group members is not a good group member at all. I'm not even sure if he is still in the group. If he is trying to count this project as his senior service project, all I ask is that he pay his share of the money. My other group members have been better, but due to the fact that I have been building the project at my dad's shop, me, my grandpa, and my dad have been doing the majority of the work. That's alright and I am the type of person who likes to work myself to make sure it's good. Mike and Emilio have both come up to help, but it's really a one or two man job, and with me and my dad, it is hard to incorporate them. Especially Emilio because he doesn't really know how to build things. We are very close to completion of the project. All that is left is to paint the shelf, attach the door, attach the shingles, and then attach the bracket and post to the bottom. These things are all simple and shouldn't take long. My dad is going to bring home the shelf so I can paint it at home, but when that is done we will only need about an hour to finish attaching everything. We are getting very close. I am excited to see the finished product.

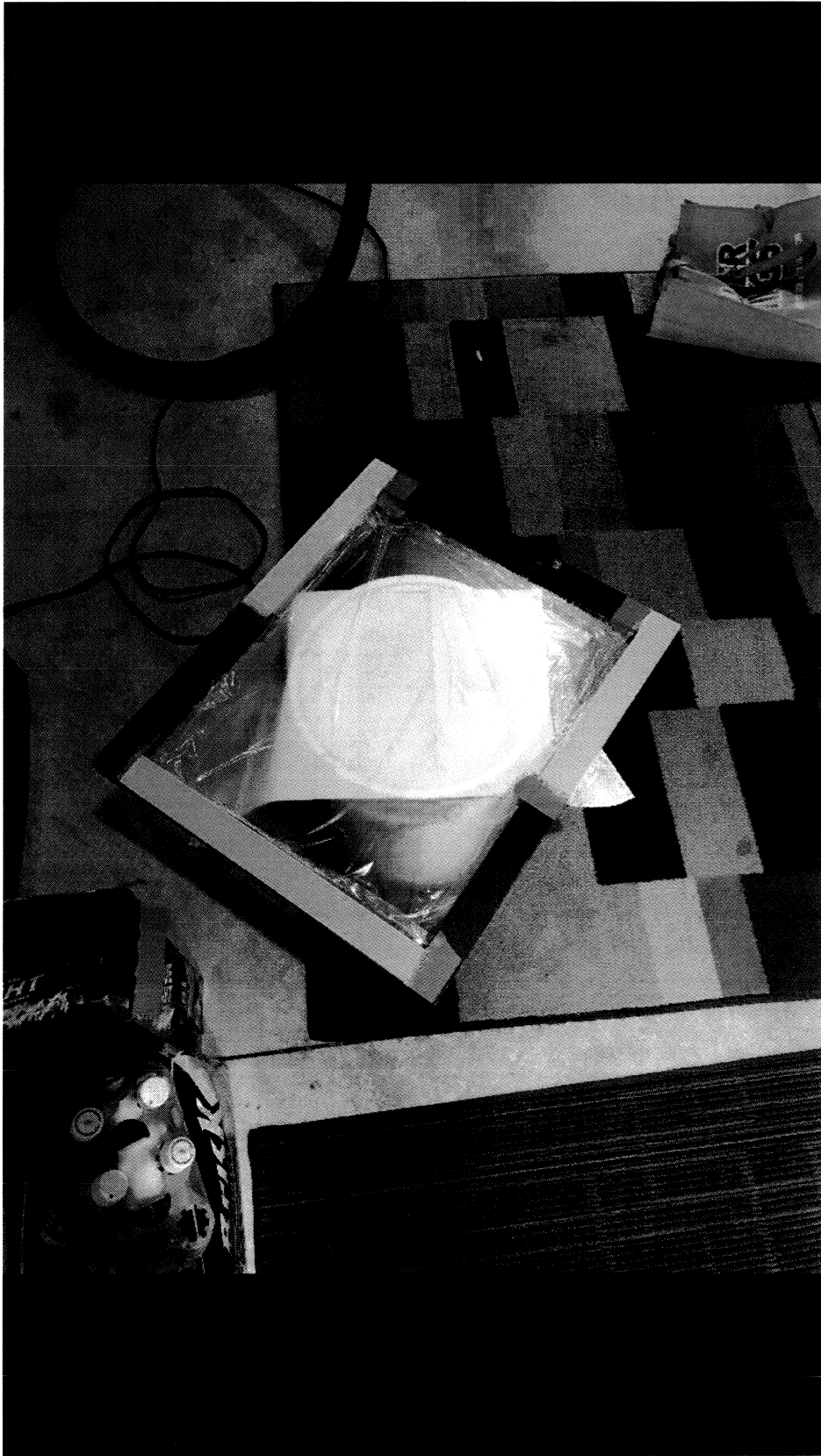
**Reflection 11 10-25-17**

3. Explain your leadership role for this project such as planning and initiating activities?

My role as a leader in this project has kind of transformed. It has turned into me basically building the whole thing by myself. I can't really blame anyone for this though, because it was at my dad's shop and now it's in my garage. With such easy access to it, it almost hard not to do it all myself. At this point, the library itself is essentially done, so I will have to motivate my group to go down to the Cleveland book bank and talk with them about supplying books for the library. The library is completely build other than a few small things. The biggest thing we have yet to do is put the shingles on the roof. I do not know how to put on shingles and neither does

my dad so he is going to have a carpenter that works for him help us with it. Besides that, we just have to put two things that keep the door shut on. Then it'll be all built. The next step is bringing it up to Ed's and getting it in the ground. We have the 4x4 and the bracket to hold it on, but we have to worry about digging the hole and if we will need any concrete. I think it will all go well and we will have it up at Ed's next week.

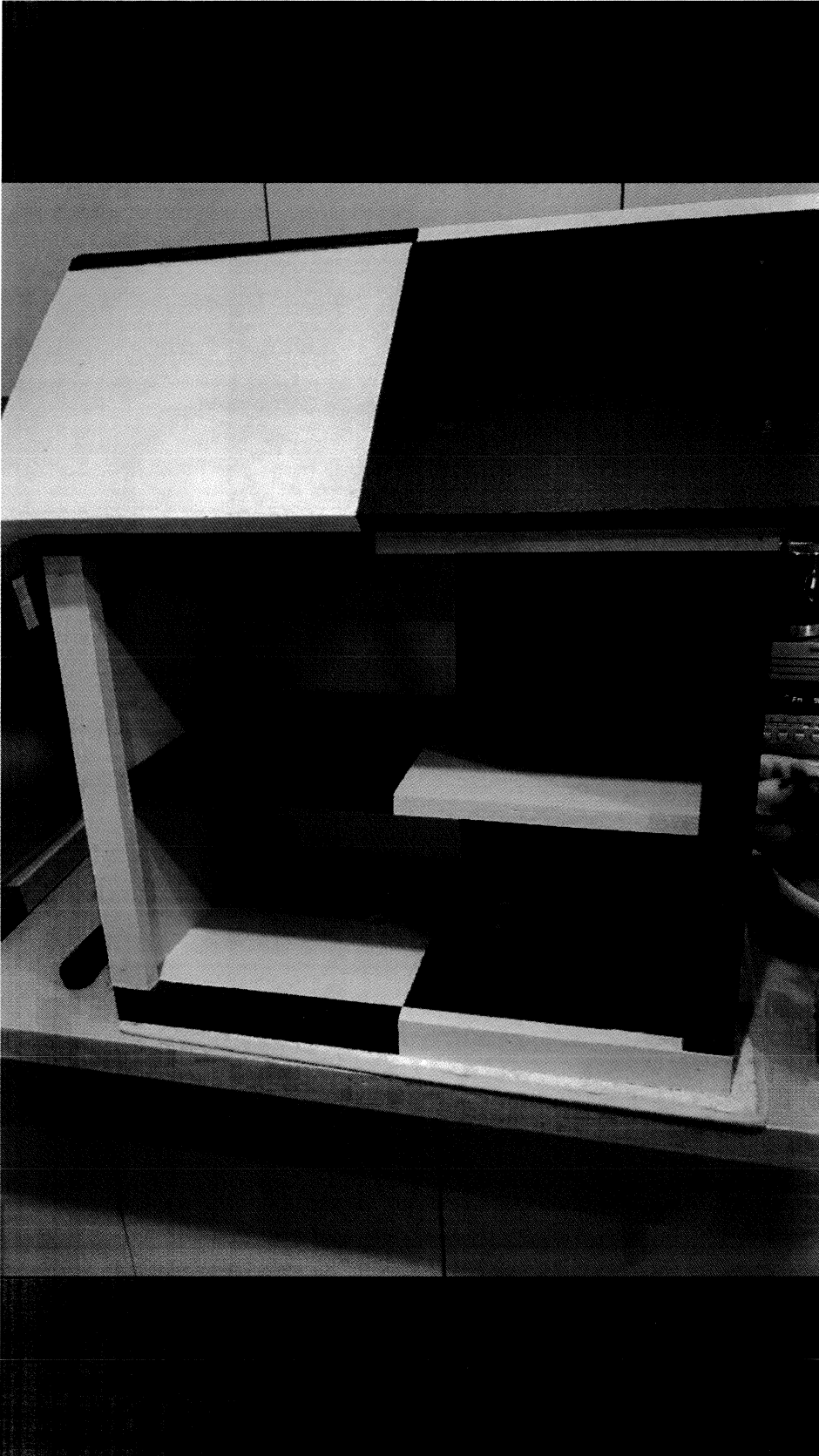


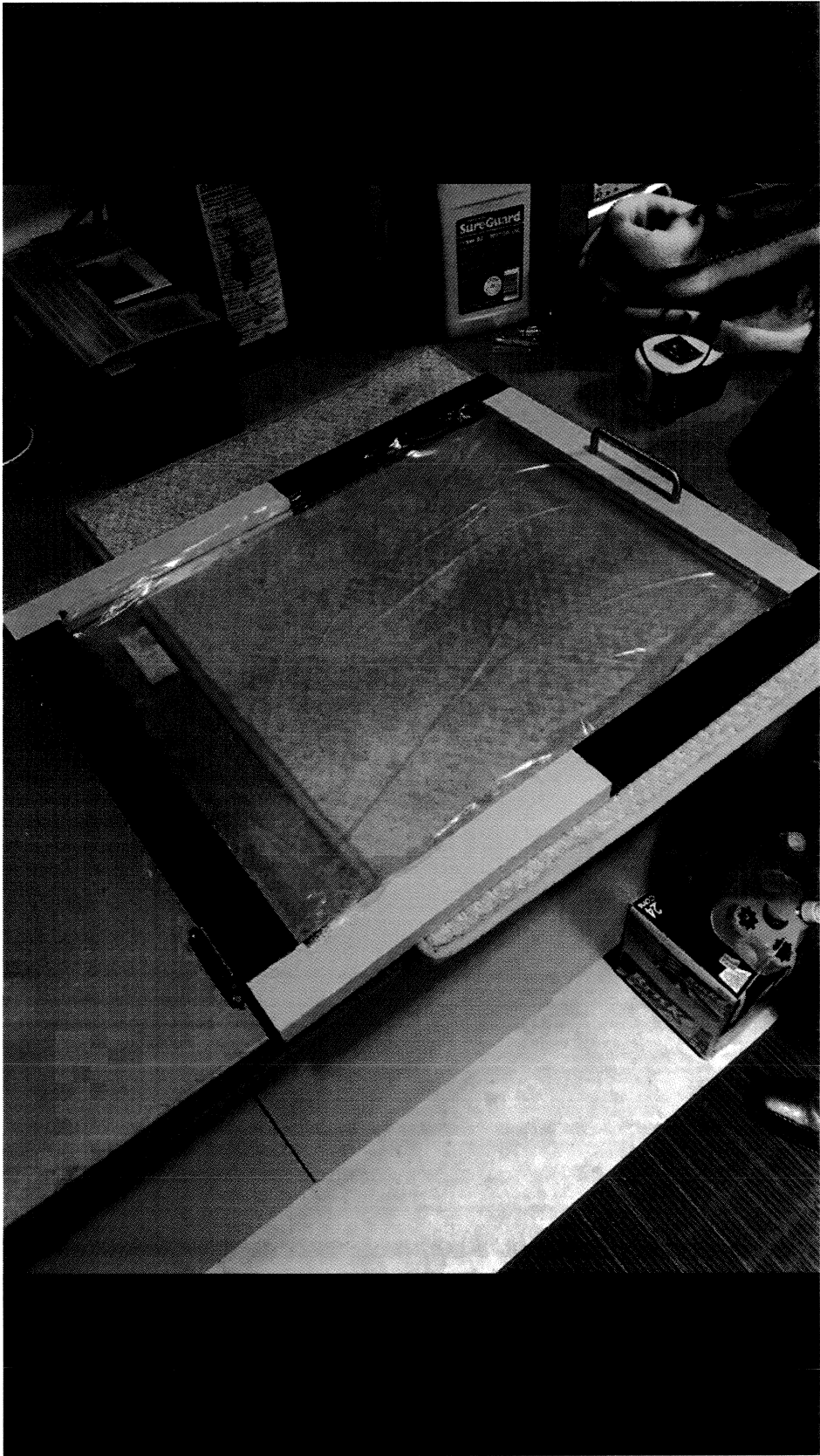


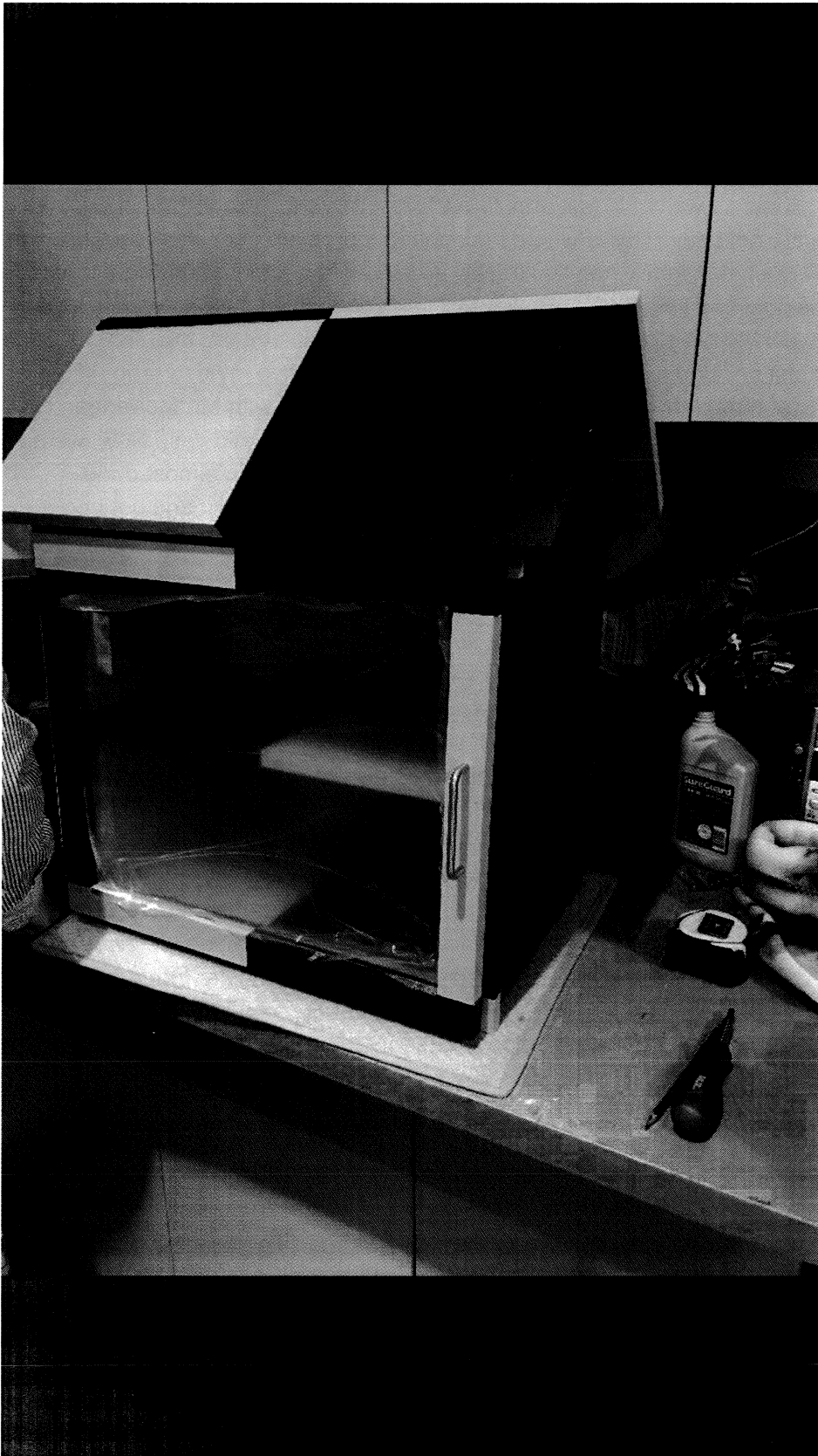












**Reflection 12 11-8-17**

5. How will you overcome possible obstacles for your project?

Recently, I came across a problem while trying to work on the CAS project. I have finished building the library itself and I talked to our advisor for the project, Mr. McKenna. He told me to bring the library up to school so we could talk about how to get it into the ground. So, I decided to bring it up to school the next day. This is where I came into a problem. I could fit the library in my car, but not the 4x4 post. My family has two trucks, so I thought about just driving a truck to school and carrying the post and library in it. However, I realized that my parking spot is kind of tight, so I would not be able to get a truck in and out with cars in the lot around me. To get around this problem, I just decided to bring the library in my car and have my dad drop off the post at a later date. As of right now, the library is at school and we met with Mr. McKenna. He asked if they could put some Ed's stickers and memorabilia on it and we said yes. Now, we are just awaiting bringing the post up and actually getting into the ground. We're almost done getting the library in the ground, so now we just need to contact the book bank and get books for it.

**Reflection 13 11-29-17**

7. Are there any ethical concerns for your project? If so, how will you address them?

There are really no ethical concerns for this this project regarding its goal and what we doing. However, there is some ethical concern within myself about the group aspect of the project. My dad and I did a lot of the work building the library itself, while my group members didn't really do much. I did like this because I like doing things myself so I know that they're good or I can blame myself if something is wrong. However, the ethics of me doing most of the work building the library and then the whole group getting credit is kind of blurred. I don't think it is ethical for this to happen, but I am completely fine with it. The project is still in the same point as last time I did a reflection. The library is here at school, but I have not brought the post up yet, so we can't put it in the ground. I really need to do that soon before it gets too cold and the ground freezes up. Once it is installed, we will need books for it. The other members of my group should contact the book bank and get this all set up because I did most of the building. I think that this is how we can even out the ethical issue of me doing all of the building and painting.

**Reflection 14 12-13-17**

6. What area of global importance is your project impacting (local, national or international community)?

The area of global importance that my project is impacting is the local community around St. Edward High School. This is because my project is outside the front of the building facing the street, inviting people to come and take a book. This will help kids and adults in the community to read and help increase the literacy rate. It could also impact a greater area than the local community around St. Ed's because people can see the library from the street. The people can

come and get the books and take them to their homes, wherever they are. Like I said earlier, the project is now in the ground. I finally brought the post up to school, and the maintenance crew promptly put in in the ground, and the library on top of it. We are now in the final stages of the project, because we are just trying to get books from the book bank. Another member in my group has emailed the book bank, but they are yet to get back. I hope they email us back soon so we can actually get books into the little library. Another experience that I had for CAS was that I volunteered to tutor kids around final exams. I went to the room and worked with a kid on math. I helped him understand the concepts and worked with him on studying for his exam. I think that he will do good on it, because with my help he really started to understand the math.

**Reflection 15 1-31-18**

1. What are some of your strengths? What areas of personal growth do you think you will gain from doing your CAS project?

Some of strengths that came out during this project are that I was able to lead my group into different things we had to do. I also did most of the building and painting of the project, which is a strength because I am good working with wood and tools. Another strength that I have is the ability to communicate with our advisor and get things organized with him so that I could bring the project up to the school and into the ground. Regarding the project, we are now done. The library is in the ground outside of the school stocked with books. I have not seen anyone actually take a book from it, but I have noticed the amount of books going down, so people are evidently taking books, which is very good. That means that the project is working and people are getting easier access to books than before the library was there. This is good because it means that the original goal of the project has essentially been met.

### **Final Interview Reflection**

During my time working on CAS overall, I did many things that helped me grow in many areas. My CAS project of building a Little Library helped me to do service, which made me feel more connected with the community because I was trying to help the kids around my school. However, I do think that the best things that I learned were in regards to my personal goals of improving my business.

By being able to reflect on my goals and progress, I was better able to work toward improving my business and myself. I think that it definitely helped me realize that I was good at doing the actual work that I had to do, but I was weaker in the area of estimating. I needed to work on estimating a price that was affordable enough for the customer and also sufficient enough for me to do the work and purchase any materials that might be needed. I tried to improve my estimating skills by trying new techniques. When I first started, I would just quote a solid number for a job. When I started to try and improve my skills, I started quoting solid number for materials for a job, but I would just put in an hourly rate and tell the customer that it will be the quoted cost of materials, plus the hourly rate times the amount of hours I work. This really started to work well for me because customers liked the idea of just paying for the work I did, and I got paid for the work I did. It was fair to the customer and also to me. I think that overall, focussing on developing the skill of estimating definitely helped me because I got better at it, as evident by me actually getting more of the jobs that I quoted.