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BA 331

Working Thesis: The Effects of Mentorship in Entrepreneurship

In 2020, the motivation and inspiration of black owned business is higher than I have ever seen it. There was a time in history where about 80% of the black community owned businesses but over time and through trial and testimony, it has become a lot less likely and looked up to. I believe that as an entrepreneur, especially with skin of color, it is important to have some kind of role model or mentor to help guide you. I will be researching about the effects of mentorship, how prevalent it is in other communities, the statistics on mentorship in the black community, the history of Black Wall Street, ways we can improve and more.

For some reason, our people have this mindset that when you “get it out the mud” yourself and pave way for yourself, it’s better or more respected than of someone who received help to achieve their level of success. With that being said, my working thesis is “while our brothers and sisters of color were raised and taught the importance of independence, it is important that we humble ourselves enough to recognize that we have goals, and we’re in need of help to achieve them.” In saying “help” I mean guidance, advice, lessons, projects, etc.

I came up with my idea by brainstorming using the clustering method. I started with the main idea of business, which is my broad major. I then had to think about the things that interest me in business the most. Next, I wrote down some problems with those business interests and finally was able to choose the path that resonated most with me.

I would like to do research on this topic because I see the importance in mentorship. I actually have testimony of the importance and how impacting is and can be. I also realize the

current trend of mindset within our community that was passed down from the previous generation, while I cannot ignore the upcoming drive for business in the generation behind us. Millennials are fed up and we have dreams out of this world, with the drive and tenacity to execute them. But coming from a content generation, we don't get the guidance and encouragement we need most of the time. This is a problem when it comes to fueling our futures. Our children have no choice but to take after you or soak up something. Your hard work, your circumstance, how you react to or accept it, your complaining or moving and shaking. It is all seen, it is all subconsciously noted.

I have not done any research so far, but I know that I will find tons of information to support my thesis and I should have no problem providing detailed information to further explain. Entrepreneurship is a career that is so profound but can be so intimidating and overwhelming when you're doing it alone. Mentorship, internships and externships all provide guidance and learning to an individual, but these are things you don't hear much about unless you go to college and not everyone has that opportunity. Through my research, I hope to inform my readers of the importance in mentorship in the black community and hopefully inspire them all to start a business or help someone they know out in their process.