Mentoring Project Summary

I selected Madison Middle School as the school for me to do my mentoring project. I went to the industrial technology classroom. This classroom is one that has 14 different modules for students to work in. The students get into groups of two and work on a module together. Each student has their own individual work and assignments, but they have a partner working along side of them. This works really well because they can help each other to solve problems and they learn to share and work together better.

I helped two boys in their module for my mentoring project. Their module was called problem solving. The point of the module is to present a problem, and the students are to think of possible solutions and see if they work. Their project was to make a mousetrap car travel fifteen feet. They were given a small piece of wood, three rubber bands, a short piece of string, a dow-rod to use for axels, and four wheels. They are allowed to cut the materials or drill holes, but the car has to travel at least fifteen feet when the mousetrap is set off.

The students decided where to put the wheels on the cars and how to put them together. I only helped hold part together as they built them. When the time came to figure out how to make the cars go, I gave them several suggestions. They decided what to try and I helped them to do it. When the car failed to go like they wanted, the students did not know why. I asked them exactly what they saw happen and why the car did not travel anywhere. I helped them to figure out what was wrong with the design and how improvements could be made. We did this for a few days, and then decided to totally change the design of the car.
The new design seemed to be a great idea, but it did not work. I showed the students a few things about weight distribution, traction, and grip. Through studying these three things just a little bit, the students were able to figure out why their cars did not work. On my last day with them, the cars finally worked.

It feels great when I am able to teach a student something and see them use that information to solve problems. I enjoyed the mentoring project and it really makes me want to be a teacher. This experience made me see some other things in the classroom such as discipline problems, student arguments, and personal problems of the students. I learned a little bit about dealing with some of these issues by watching the teacher of the classroom deal with these problems. Overall though, this was a great learning experience for me and it makes me look forward to becoming a technology teacher.