1. IDENTIFY INDUSTRY FOCUSED SKILLS
   - Flexibility
   - Focus/Drive
   - Maturity
   - Ability to Receive Creative Criticism
   - Read, Write, and Watch (Everything)
   - Thoughtful Perspective

2. COMBINE MULTIPLE EXPERIENCES
   - Informational Interviews
   - Job Shadow
   - Coursework
   - Volunteer/Service
   - Micro-Internship
   - Part-time / Temp Work
   - Professional Conferences
   - Workshops/Trainings/Competitions
   - Create Your Own Internship
   - Individual Project: Create Something
   - Start a Business
   - Research

3. DEMONSTRATE AND ARTICULATE
   - Think creatively about how you can develop/demonstrate skills. Be proactive and intentional in all of your experiences.
   - Find and cultivate mentors.
   - Schedule sessions with your Vandy Career Coach to develop your plan and discuss how to “tell the story” of your summer.

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**SAMPLE PLAN**

**INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEWS**
- **Goal**: Gain an insider perspective on making it in Hollywood and cultivate connections.
- **Action**: Joined Vandy in Hollywood Facebook group and identified alumni with interesting experiences in entertainment. Crafted personalized emails to stand out.
- **Result/Skills**: Had conversations with 13 professionals and learned what skills were valuable in scriptwriting and that Hollywood is a “who you know” town.

**TARGETED COURSEWORK**
- **Goal**: Hone script writing skills.
- **Action**: Enrolled in a 30-hour online Coursera course Script Writing: Create a Pilot Episode for a TV Series (UCLA). As part of the class, wrote a complete pilot episode for a unique TV drama series.
- **Result/Skills**: Learned to break down the creative process into smaller components and create a pitch-ready script in just a few weeks. Gained confidence in screenwriting and pitching skills.

**INDIVIDUAL PROJECT: CREATE SOMETHING**
- **Goal**: Self produce a screen play and build skills related to video production.
- **Action**: Wrote a screen play and uploaded to BlackList for feedback. Created a personal portfolio on WIX and added it to LinkedIn. Wrote and directed a video series using a phone and iMovie. Shared work with alumni and faculty to get feedback.
- **Result/Skills**: Developed confidence getting critique of creative work. Created professional website (WIX) to share work with the public.

**RESEARCH**
- **Goal**: Deep dive into what makes a script great (or not) and being able to articulate it.
- **Action**: Read the entire Black List for the past ten years – the good, bad, classic, and experimental.
- **Result/Skills**: Apart from practicing writing, reading hundreds of scripts was a tremendous education on the entertainment industry (and much cheaper than grad school).