

Lily Jones

Speice 3A

Independent Study and Mentorship

6, December 2018

Insight at Eyes In Sight

Assessment 9- Interview

Name of Professional: Loan Lao

Title: Doctor of Optometry (O.D.)

Company: Eyes In Sight

Date of Interview: October 29, 2018

Works Cited:

Jones, Lilian, and Loan Lao "Insight at Eyes In Sight." 29 October. 2018.

Assessment:

Dr. Lao, a female optometrist who opened Eyes In Sight in 2012, was the individual who the second interview was conducted with. Considering this practice is smaller and she is the only doctor working there, the hours are flexible and working with coworkers and patients is much easier, compared to a large group practice. With these benefits, Dr. Lao also shared that the most rewarding part of her occupation is the face-to-face interaction with her patients. By getting to personally know her patients, Dr. Lao is able to have a relationship with people, compared to ocular websites. With ocular websites, individuals have faster and cheaper access to corrective lenses. However, Dr. Lao claims this resource is actually harming patients in the long run.

With online sources, patients are able to input their prescription and select from a wider variety of glasses frames. The convenience of ordering glasses from home is appealing, however, Dr. Lao believes that most websites promote false prescriptions and information. This is alarming in the optometry field because glasses and contacts are considered medical devices and should be given to patients by professionals. Additionally, when diagnosing a patient, optometrists must listen to what the patient believes or says, along with what the actual results of the tests portray. The difference is objective and subjective information. When working with a patient, Dr. Lao must first listen to what the individual is feeling (objective), and then should conduct a series of tests to figure out the legitimate results (subjective). One of the many beliefs people trick themselves into thinking is that their vision gets worse with their glasses and their eyes are becoming more dependent on them over time. During the interview, Dr. Lao clarified that this common myth is difficult to explain to people because the brain is actually making the person believe it is true. Dr. Lao expanded on the fact that visual degeneration is natural and comes with age. Also, eye issues may be associated with genetics, as well as the environmental factors, such as technology.

While on the topic of humans and what they think about their eyes, the interview shifted more towards how individuals are interacting with their corrective lenses. Dr. Lao mentioned the recent articles addressing the problem of how people are flushing their contacts down the toilet, rather than disposing of them in the trashcan. This issue eventually harms the marine life and causes many animals to die, due to suffocation when consuming the clear contacts. With this, Dr. Lao touched on the fact that we need to education our youth on how to effectively take care of their eyes and how to use the corrective lenses

properly. When Dr. Lao brought up this issue, it was ironic because I had already read a few of these articles recently, so we were able to connect more easily. Additionally, Dr. Lao was a mentor last year to an ISM student from Liberty. This meant that she knew what the program was about and how to work with students my age, regarding production in ISM. This allowed us to initiate and bounce ideas off of each other, for my Original Work piece.

Overall, the information that I valued the most was the advice that Dr. Lao gave me during the interview. During our time together, she informed me that if I decide to enter the field, I should do it for the right reasons. Many times young adults who enter the medical field only do so for the money. However, Dr. Lao made it clear that although it is a competitive field, pursuing optometry can be rewarding because optometrists get to help others and work in such a positive field. With this information, becoming an optometrist seems even more interesting and is a division of the medical field that still intrigues me.

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