**Virginia Beach Leadership Workshop
Journal Entry #5**

 This week was what we had been waiting and planning for all summer! All the instructional content that we created, all the banners that we made, all the events that we planned, were actually executed during this week. It is beyond rewarding to see what you have put so much hard work into creating, actually be carried out. This week started out with moving into Virginia Wesleyan College on Sunday morning at 8am, and beginning official work at 11, although I was there working on some individual tasks beforehand. We continued to prepare ourselves for the Middle School delegates to arrive on Wednesday morning on Sunday as well as on Monday and Tuesday. However on Monday and Tuesday we were also tasked with serving as the administrative team for the Forensics Workshop. So while still trying to tie up all loose ends and make everything all set and prepared for Wednesday we had to run a workshop.

 On Tuesday evening, my co-team leader had a death in his close family and had to leave to be with his family. I wanted to do everything I could do to support him and make sure that he didn’t have anything to worry about with work. It was extremely intimidating to realize that I was going to be the one person in charge of everything for the next day. Drew and I usually split up tasks and set ups that we are in charge of, so as a first year team leader I was extremely nervous. I am a person who typically underestimates myself and it is hard for me to see myself as a leader. However, being able to step up and be the go-to person for every set up and task helped me realize that I need to be more confident in myself.

 One of my favorite memories from this summer will be the large group facilitation that I did this week at the Middle School Leadership Workshop. I was tasked with creating a fifty minute facilitation for 120 middle school students. When I found out, I was scared to say the least. I was nervous that I wouldn’t be able to come up with a fun, interactive session that would keep the middle school students active and engaged. I spent the first half of this week planning out some topics; however, nothing seemed to work out exactly the way I was hoping it would. Somehow it ended up being the night before my facilitation and I still was unsure of what to do exactly. After the staff meeting that ended around 1 a.m. I went to a staff member who has served as a great mentor for me ever since I started this program and sought her advice. Leslie was my team leader the first year I served on staff, and still serves as mentor and role model. She was able to help me calm down and simply sit down and map out exactly what I was hoping to do for the session. I ended up staying up til 3 a.m. working on my facilitation, and rightfully so because the facilitation was amazingly! I was so proud of myself, which is something I usually do not feel. I found that I actually enjoyed the large group facilitation and even had fun during it! This experience helped me to see how important it is to have mentors in any work place no matter what year you may be. This was my fourth year on staff, and yet I still find areas to grow in and go to my mentors when I need to.

 Overall, this week was great not only because the middle school students got so much out of the program but also because I saw my team members excel. I was proud of each member of my team, and could tell how hard they worked. In a sense I felt like a proud mom. I have spent all summer working with this group, most of whom were new to the staff, and to see them prosper was very rewarding.