

Project Evaluation

I think I answered most of the questions that I set out to in this project. I certainly think I covered the various different entities, like hedge funds and proprietary traders in detail. Researching it was sometimes difficult and frustrating but I can certainly say that I know more about these areas than I did before. I found the terminology difficult and had to find simple explanations where possible and this meant that there were whole areas that I did not understand fully and felt that I could not include – for example many of the articles mentioned Private equity and I found it hard to really get to grips with what that meant and how it related to the topic. Also I found it hard to really understand the role of credit rating agencies so, again, relied on the workbook for description. As I mentioned in my research essay, I came to a number of dead ends and had no idea what to do or who to ask, just speaking to the Librarian helped me a lot but wasn't something I found easy to do. The internet was so useful but I found I accumulated too much information and too many contrasting viewpoints; it was definitely helpful when it came to looking for support for less popular views or trying to play Devil's advocate by voicing contrarian arguments and I think my project was well balanced as a result. I found it really hard to find information on traditional investors and am not sure whether I devoted enough space to that and I suppose that, although I feel more confident that I have learnt a lot about the subject matter, I am not sure if it really helped me to find out more about day trading. Having done this project I do think it will help me with interviews and improve my chances of working in the financial industry as I think I do know more as a result. If I was doing a project again I think it would be simpler to attempt a less complicated one – this one covered a lot of subjects and, as a result, I collated too much information and it was really hard to make sense of it. The main thing

about the research was knowing which bits to trust and which to discount and my tutor was really helpful there. I think next time I would try to be more selective about research and also look to consult with my tutor and schoolmates much earlier as that really made a difference on this occasion. The problem with the issues covered here was that it was hard to distinguish between opinion and facts, particularly as it is such a topical area. I would say that refining and making sense of the research material were the hardest part – getting hold of information was all too easy, it was knowing what to use, understanding it and expressing it in plain English that were the most challenging and time consuming activities.

Word Count 506