# Technology Evaluation

**Evaluation (Process)-**

From the very beginning of this technology unit Adornment, I was extremely excited, enthusiastic and eager to participate in all that this jewellery unit had to offer! Throughout the following weeks, I was given the opportunity to think and design like a professional jeweler, use the advanced tools similar to what they would, and constantly challenged to grasp new and unfamiliar concepts. Along the way I was able to experiment with and manipulate legitimate jewellery materials such as silver, copper and resin; practice with new pieces of machinery such as the dremel, buffer machine and blow torch; and was able to exercise different and unknown jewellery techniques such as annealing, soldering and numerous polishing methods. Overall. this jewellery unit has been an incredible and very valuable experience - I am very lucky to have the opportunity to build such an in-depth and substantial knowledge of jewellery design and production.

Throughout this Technology Unit I have studied, performed and adopted many innovative skills that can be matched in different ways to create high-quality jewellery pieces such as rings. pendants, bracelets etc. Such techniques as annealing, soldering and mixing resin were at first difficult for me to comprehend and grasp immediately - however with the chance to trial and experiment, it made it significantly easier for me to learn. In addition, I was also introduced to a wide selection of simpler and less excessive skills such as sawing silver, sanding, polishing and filing which were all very advantageous when wanting to enhance or perfect the aesthetics of my product. All of these jewellery techniques have effectively broadened my knowledge of this particular technology unit as well as provide me with a diverse range of specialized skills, which may become invaluable in other Technology projects.

One of the high lights of this particular unit was no doubt being able to properly and correctly access the assorted selection of machinery and jewellery tools. It was amazing to see the capabilities of these tools and their immediate effect and impact on materials such as silver, resin or copper. However the machinery I utilized to create the form and structure of my jewellery piece (hand saw, blow torch. electronic buffer machine) was

considerably more advanced and hence more dangerous than in previous years of Technology. These machines whilst efficient and user-friendly still had the potential to harm others and myself if not handling them with utmost concentration and caution. Nevertheless. the girl in my class were always very vigilant went handling these dangerous tools and were wary of their surroundings and whom was at potential risk.

The production of my project was not particularly challenging nor confusing due to the fact that the design itself was very simplistic and straight forward essentially following the procedure in which to construct a normal silver ring (which we had previously completed in class) with an additional decorative/aesthetic adornment to finish off the piece.

The fabricating and creating of my Final Design seemed a very elongated one - machines in the classroom such as the blow torch, buffer and dremel were resources that almost everyone needed for their own individual projects, so the flow of production required a lot of patience and waiting. Other than this, the experimentation and practicing of techniques in previous lessons genuinely played to my advantage through the fact that I was able to handle and utilize the machinery meticulously and efficiently when required.

Overall, the jewellery unit of technology was for me a fantastic opportunity to learn and acquire and develop new skills that I probably have never learnt anywhere else! Like all other technology units. I loved being introduced to new technologies and machinery, new techniques and new materials to work with. These technology projects always bring me outside of my comfort zone and throw me into completely foreign environments left, right, and center- nevertheless I enjoy every second of it.

# Technology Evaluation

**Evaluation (Product) -**

I personally am pleased with my final product, as I feel that the requirements of the target market, inclusive of the design brief have been fulfilled. The design brief stated that the jewellery piece must reflect a selected culture, in which case I had chosen the Australian Aboriginal culture as an inspiration and focus of my final jewellery piece.

My silver ring is demonstrative of the Aboriginal culture in different ways, evident through numerous aspects of the design - some obvious to the eye, some subtle. The circular indents located on the outer surface of the ring are symbolic of the traditional art of dot painting- an integral art of their customary traditions. Aboriginal dot painting is characterized and well known for its intricate yet uniform patterning and orderly aesthetic appeal - I attempted to incorporate these features into my design by replicating a similar and continuous dot patterning. Although the final design is very simplistic and unadorned. I feel that this is perfectly representative of the Aboriginal art itself - as Aboriginal art is never complex, confusing, or chaotic but easily understandable and gentle on the eyes. I felt that rather take inspiration from actual objects or existing items of a chosen culture, I would instead design my jewellery piece to reflect certain characteristics and features of their art.

If I were to do anything different when next approaching a ring design or major project similar to this current unit, there would be a number of changes that I would put in place to improve the standard of my product. These include:

- Measuring the ring to my exact width, length and other measurement - I know it may sound incredibly unwise, but I shortened a few millimeters of my initial measuring strip, thinking that it could be stretched to my preference. However, I soon discovered that silver can only be stretched to a certain extent, so the size of my ring was dramatically flawed.

- I would be more proactive regarding the drilling of the circular hales in my design- as in throughout the holidays or other free periods, I should have made visits to both jewelers and engravers to enquire about how long it would take to send the ring away, have it worked upon, and successfully returned with its alteration. I should have allowed a week-long period in order for the ring to be worked upon and sent back in time to hand in. I'm very disappointed and saddened that my design, project and hard work will suffer on the account of being disorganized.

- Furthermore, I would be more adventurous and outgoing in the designing and planning of my final design - I feel as if I haven't completely challenged myself and shown my full potential through my very simple ring design. I feel as if I have played it too safe and too simple.

However despite the mistakes. miscalculations and slight errors I have made, I am still very proud of my final product. Although the ring may be incomplete or slightly altered from its original design, I still believe that it is insightful of aspects of Aboriginal culture - successfully meeting and fulfilling its original requirements.

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## Grade Commentary