

Pioneer Research Institute Evaluation Form

Scholar Information

Scholar's Full Name:	Bazari, Rhythm
Scholar's Research Concentration:	LEGO® Design Values & Practices
Title of Scholar's Research Paper:	Hofburg Palace LEGO Model

Grading and Academic Oversight Section

Grade conferred by professor: A

**Full grading rubric approved by Pioneer Academics and Oberlin College*

The Pioneer Research Institute's college accreditation and academic oversight are conducted collaboratively with Oberlin College:

Listing on Common Application:	"Summer Program, Credit Awarded Directly by Oberlin College"
Course Title on Coalition Application:	"099" "Pioneer Research Course"
College Course ID on UC Application:	"INST 099" "Pioneer Research Course"

Comprehensive Evaluation Section

Evaluator Name & Full Title:	Ben Laugelli, Assistant Professor of Engineering & Society
College/University & Department:	University of Virginia, Dept. of Engineering
Full Educational Background of Evaluator:	B.S., Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, James Madison University (1996) M.A., Religious Studies, University of Virginia (2009) Ph.D., Religious Studies, University of Virginia (2014)

Please briefly explain the nature and requirements of the research paper and your interaction with the scholar:

Pioneer scholars were introduced to technical, social, and ethical principles of design through a study of the LEGO® Group. In group sessions, scholars learned about how the LEGO Group's brand identity and values have shaped its design practices. In individual sessions, scholars worked with the instructor to develop an original digital LEGO model of a World Heritage Site of their choosing. For the research paper, scholars produced a Conceptual Design Proposal (CDP) that documents their design process and demonstrates how their model aligns with the company's brand identity and values.

Rhythm contributed well to group sessions by consistently and respectfully sharing his ideas. In individual sessions he faced some initial challenges with implementing some of the project requirements regarding scale and detail. But, once he understood them better, he worked diligently to make steady and impressive progress on his model and research paper.

Please rate the scholar in the following areas:

	Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Poor
Ability to form original ideas and concepts		X			
Ability to communicate thoughts in an effective and articulate manner	X				
Ability to synthesize and organize information from disparate sources		X			
Level of scholar's curiosity, aptitude, and industriousness	X				

Based on the scholar's performance throughout Pioneer, how would you rate this scholar's potential for undergraduate-level academic work at a top college/university, relative to other undergraduate students whose academic work you have mentored?

One of the best I have encountered, top 5% X	Excellent, top 10%
Very Good, top 25%	Good, top 50%
Below Average	

Describe some of the scholar's strengths:

Rhythm demonstrated an ability to work through initial setbacks to achieve a commendable outcome. He received guidance well by implementing suggestions to improve the quality of his work. He remained committed to his vision for the project and persevered through challenges to produce a visually interesting design.

Describe some areas in which the scholar can improve:

I would recommend that Rhythm invest time up front to understand carefully any relevant project requirements and constraints so that he develops an accurate idea of the project's purpose and parameters before setting out. Doing more of that kind of work up front will save time by allowing for a more confident start to a project. This will position Rhythm to use his evident creative and technical skills to greatest advantage.

While the second half of the research work was one-to-one with the professor, the first half involved a small research cohort of 3-6 scholars. Describe the contribution that the scholar made to the research group discussion and learning:

The group sessions consisted mostly of a presentation of material by the instructor, punctuated by brief class discussions of assigned readings and examples. When there were opportunities for discussion, Rhythm was a regular contributor. Rhythm's comments were relevant, constructive, and insightful. Below is an example, drawn from a reading reflection assignment, of the kinds of contributions he made.

"Designers need the ability to endure obstacles that ensue due to their lack of expertise in various areas that their research affects outside of their technical system...This lesson will help me in my future endeavors when creating my own business as it will serve as a reminder...that the audience needs to be attracted to my company's brand and find value in our products before we expand to develop new products."

Would you recommend this scholar to a college admissions officer at a top college or university? Why or why not?

I would recommend Rhythm. He shows promise as a researcher and designer. And he was willing to work diligently to overcome initial challenges and setbacks to develop a compelling product. These kinds of skills will serve him well in a program of rigorous academic study in the years to come.

Evaluator's Signature:	
Evaluator's Printed Name:	Ben Laugelli
Date of Evaluation:	8/10/2025
Evaluator's Email:	bjl3q@virginia.edu

Pioneer Academics affirms that the scholar whose research paper is attached has followed Pioneer Academics' protocols for developing original research and that their paper has met Pioneer Academics' standards for authenticity. The grading and evaluation have met the standards collaboratively defined by Pioneer Academics and Oberlin College & Conservatory. If there are any questions regarding the work's academic integrity, please contact us at academic.integrity@pioneeracademics.com or by calling (855) 572-8863. We will conduct an immediate review and respond to your questions promptly.