Introduction:

The Y100 design challenge focuses on allowing students to experience the process of coming up with, designing, and presenting a new technological addition to the IUB residence halls. It gives the students a rough idea of the process in real life and some meaningful teamwork experiences.

The individual I interviewed was Alex Walsh. He is a sophomore in the McNutt dorms. The previous year he was in Foster. He is in the Kelley School of Business.

Key Findings:

Alex had some concerns about the residence halls regarding the technology when I asked him about it.

1. He didn’t like the laundry situation in the sense that the laundry room is almost always busy in his building and that the only surefire way to secure a laundry machine/dryer was to wait down there till one opened. He suggested an app that gave real-time updates on the status of each machine.

2. He stated that he has lost his key card a few times and noted that when one loses their keycard, they can’t get into their building without one so they must go to the front desk and those doors are locked at night. He suggested possibly creating an app where a student logs in and puts in their room info to verify the building they live in, then the student can open the doors they are at a limited number of times through their phones.

3. The last thing Alex wasn’t fond of was that when mail arrives, the emails aren’t sent out as they are scanned in but in a batch every night at 8PM and that the mail isn’t organized alphabetically but by simply putting numbers on the boxes and tossing them on racks. He believes it would be more efficient to organize everything alphabetically as it comes in so that the RAs aren’t looking at all the mail since the numerical system isn’t organized in any way. He also suggested having an email sent out as the packages are scanned in.

Recommendations:

The next step for these ideas are to bring them to my group when we meet in class and see what they think about it all. Then it would be to contact individuals in each of those respective departments and interview them on their current system and what they would think about the modified systems that have been proposed.

Summary:
During this exercise, I learned that are many things that students do not like about the residence halls and many of them are very similar to what I wasn’t fond of when I lived in Foster. I would like to survey more students to see which issues are more noticed by residents than others.

**Reflection Questions:**

I am putting these here since there is no longer a text box for me to turn them in.

1. The thing I enjoyed most about this was getting to hear feedback from a fellow student on what issues he thought we most important. What I didn’t like was that I gathered data from only one student on the topics at hand.
2. The only real challenge I encountered was finding a good time for both Alex and I to meet up to have this conversation.
3. I utilized my writing skills and my interpersonal communication skills I have learned over the years to conduct the short interview.
4. I believe that consulting/analyzing is a well needed tech career option but it would not be the area for me, I am more interested in hands on design and creation of new tech.