Personal Project Report

1. Criterion A: Planning

1.1 MY LEARNING GOAL:
Before actually getting to know Personal Project, I was scared that I wouldn't be able to decide on an idea for it. However, when we had our first Personal Project meeting and the general idea was presented, I almost immediately knew what I wanted to do. When the MYP coordinator gave an example of a student creating a sweater, that took me down memory lane to when my grandma and great-grandma crocheted clothes for me and their other grandchildren.

When I thought more about that, I was reminded of all the gifts they ever made for us and everyone around them. They could make something special and personalized for each person. My grandmas also collected money by selling things they created, or they made small baby hats for charity.

Ever since I can remember some part of me wanted to follow this family tradition and learn how to crochet. I never actually attempted to learn because I thought I would quickly lose my motivation and patience. I assumed it would be too demanding for me, given how bad I am at crafting things like bracelets from mouline. Therefore, when getting to know Personal Project more I saw the opportunity for me to become actually motivated to learn crocheting. I also thought that I could get help with such a project from my family, especially my grandmas and my cousins.

I want to learn and acquire the basics of crocheting. How to make different pieces of clothing such as hats, scarves, decorations, or even a sweater. By gaining this knowledge I can create personalized things for me, my friends, and my family by myself from absolute zero. After learning crocheting I can express my creativity by creating new patterns, ways, and ideas for new crochet items. To learn crocheting with absolutely zero prior knowledge of it, I will have to research on the internet and get help from my family. My learning goal will be demonstrated and used in the creation of my product. **For my ATL skill, I have chosen self-management**.

1.2 MY PRODUCT GOAL:
Learning how to crochet would give me plenty of options regarding the creation of my product goal and the product itself. I could make a crochet sale and collect money for charity, or make a crocheted art exhibition. My very first product idea was to create multiple hats and give them to people in need. I figured that it might have been a good idea because it is cold in winter, and hats are essential. Soon, after that idea, I realized that I didn't want to end up being able to only create hats and spend five months doing only that. I didn't want to waste the opportunity that Personal Project gave me. I wanted to learn how to make more things than one, such as birthday gifts for my friends or items I could use myself. I wanted to be able to use my skills even after the Personal Project would finish.

I consulted with my mom, and she showed me a group on Facebook called "Pomocna dłoń dla Nastki" which translated from Polish means "A helpful hand for Nastka". The group was created to help four-year-old Nastka collect money for an unexpected operation. In the group, people could donate things that others could bid on. The bid money goes for the surgery of the girl. Nastka already had two operations in the past. All of these surgeries were a part of the fight for the efficiency of her right hand.

Therefore, I decided that **I will create various products by crocheting them and donating them to sale for a charitable auction.** The products I planned to make would be, for example, pieces of clothing and decorations. My end products would be donated for sale, and end up in a charitable auction aimed at helping someone that really needs them. I wanted to complete my project in February at the latest. That would give me a lot of time for learning and creating the products, but still enough to do it without stress. The target audience of my product goal would be the members of the charity, anyone that goes upon the group (so the potential buyers), and most importantly Nastka herself (the girl that the charity collects money for). As my **ATL skill, I chose communication**.

1.3 GLOBAL CONTEXT:

For my global context I chose **Personal and Cultural Expression**. For me, this is about exploring, and expressing my creativity through crochet. I can express my ideas by creating a pattern or a piece. Moreover, I can enjoy my creativity by continuing my family's traditions passed on for generations.

1.4 MY PROJECT'S SUCCESS CRITERIA:

When it comes to my success criteria I wanted to establish at least two for both my learning and product goals of my Personal Project. I wanted to do this in order to check if I reached both of them.

SUCCESS CRITERIA	REQUIREMENT	EXPLANATION OF THE REQUIREMENT	HOW WILL IT BE TESTED/MEASURED AND BY WHOM
The amount of crocheted products.	I will create at least 10 products.	One has to be something bigger (like a sweater or a bag), four have to be something medium-sized (for example a hat), and five can be something smaller (like a coaster).	If I have at least 10 products, I will pass this success criterion. The exact amount of the products in different sizes can vary, but if there won't be anything bigger sized, I will fail this success criterion. This will be measured by me before donating the products for the auctions.

The amount of money raised through the auctions of the crocheted products.	The auctions have to raise at least the amount of 200 PLN.	If one item of all the ten is bigger, then its starting price can be higher, for example 40 PLN. The medium-sized things can be around 25 PLN which times 4 will be 100 PLN in total. The smaller things can be around 10 PLN which times 5 will be a total of 50 PLN. Together everything should raise at least 200 PLN.	If all the products are won by someone, there will be at least 200 PLN raised. Therefore if all of the products are not won by someone, I will fail this success criterion. However, the bids on the auctions can increase significantly. This will be measured by me at the end of the auctions. I will count in total how much my auctions raised.
Knowing the patterns of crocheting. Patterns in crocheting are a way of crocheting a certain thing with the use of different stitches-so basically a tutorial for crocheting something.	I will know at least three whole patterns by heart.	If I will actually crochet on a weekly basis, after time I will memorize some patterns.	This will be measured by me. If I will be able to crochet at least three different things without using the written pattern or tutorial, I will pass this success criterion.
Knowing common stitches used in crocheting. Stitches are created by moving a crochet hook through the yarn to get a specific shape and look in a crochet pattern.	I will know at least 5 different stitches by heart.	If I crochet various things, I will learn different stitches for them.	If I know how to crochet 5 different stitches without any help, I will pass this success criterion. This will be measured by checking if I can repeatedly crochet certain stitches.

ACTION PLAN:
When It comes to my plan I first looked it up from the resources the school gave us, and I created a more complex one. Later, I changed it and I wrote only the most important dates and things for me and my project.

Timeline	Tasks	My reflections
SEPTEMBER	• Buy a weekly planner • Write down the important dates on my calendar planner • Brainstorm my ideas for PP • Finish the Personal Project notification form • Minimum 4 entries on ManageBac	I wrote all of the dates down on my calendar, I've submitted my forms and I have my idea figured out to a certain point. I had my first meeting with my supervisor on the 26th and wrote it down on ManageBac. I also met with a former MYP student that completed Personal Project last year.
OCTOBER	• Have my 1st Supervisor meeting + Academic Integrity Form • Create my Success Criteria • Minimum 4 new entries on ManageBac • My own Action Plan • Contact my family and learn the absolute core basics of crocheting	I am mostly on track with my PP. I had my first supervisor meeting in September as well as added several journal entries (8 entries). I had my success criteria to a certain point. I still need to complete my action plan. I haven't done the Academic Integrity Form yet, but I submitted the first meeting on ManageBac. I met with my grandma and my cousin, then I learned how to make slip knots and how to chain. Later, I also learned how to make double crochets.
NOVEMBER	• Minimum 4 new entries on ManageBac • Gather supplies for crocheting • Create at least one bigger crochet piece (at that point bigger for me meant something bigger than a simple chain)	I have 12 journal entries in total. I made hand warmers. I bought 3 different 4mm balls of yarn. I learned how to make hearts and hats.
DECEMBER	• Start working on the end products • Minimum 4 new entries of evidence on ManageBac • 2nd meeting with supervisor + Academic Integrity Form • Buy more yarn	I made a book cover, a small phone bag, and hand warmers, for the auctions. On December 5th I had my second meeting with my supervisor. By the end of December, I have 19 journal entries.

JANUARY	• Working on the end products • Minimum 4 new entries of evidence on ManageBac • Prepare a presentation for Mini-Pitch • Create at least 3 crochet pieces	When it comes to this month, I did the most work compared to the other months. For me, it was very productive and on time. I made a phone bag, 3 flower coasters, another 2 book sleeves, and 6 flower hair clips. I also bought more yarn (4 different ones). I have 24 journal entries in total. I found the template for my presentation and researched it. I created the mini-pitch presentation and presented it. I also wanted to share my knowledge somehow and taught crocheting during some Visual Art classes in our school.
FEBRUARY	• Send the products for the auctions • By the 10th of February the auctions should be finished • Minimum 4 new entries of evidence on ManageBac • Start writing my report • 3rd meeting with supervisor + Academic Integrity Form	When it comes to this month I finished one of my final products- a hat. I also started crocheting a bag for my best friend's birthday. I met with my supervisor. I got more supplies for crocheting and crocheted a bag. I also created a crocheting club at my school. I contacted one of the organizers of the auctions and showed my products. I posted 7 new reflections.
MARCH	• Complete report by 10th of March • Check the report • Send the final draft to my supervisor • Fill in the Academic Integrity form • Prepare for PP Fair • Submit all my work to the supervisor before 31st March	I made final touches to my products and sent them for the auctions. The auctions took place. I started writing my report. I promoted the auctions by making stories on my Instagram account. Firstly I designed them on Canva.

2. Criterion B: Applying skills

2.1 Achieving the learning goal- ATL skill: self-management

Self-management skill:

One of the skills that Self-management is about is organization. In order to manage effectively and without stress one's life, work, and other tasks one must plan and organize it. For my learning goal's ATL skill, I chose self-management. I knew that learning something like crocheting would be very challenging for me, and in order to do so on time I would have to be organized by managing my time well. When it comes to me, I am generally a very well-organized person. Still, I wasn't used to planning everything and doing something every week in addition to my school tasks, and extracurriculars. For school, it came out naturally because I was used to it. At first, I couldn't get used to doing something extra on a daily basis and later on reflecting on it and writing it into my process journal on ManageBac. In the beginning, it was a bit overwhelming. Finding additional time for my Personal Project, whilst still having time for schoolwork and myself was sometimes really hard. I often had to make up for everything that I didn't have time to complete, and that stressed me out. What helped me stay on track and improved my organization was one of the first things I did for my project. I bought a weekly planner. I basically used it like my Personal Project journal on ManageBac, but instead on paper. In it, I could track my habit of writing the entries, write down all of the important dates, and my to-do lists. I had a whole section dedicated to my PP. During this whole project, I've been making to-do lists every week, but there were some weeks when I simply did not have the time and strength to do anything. The most productive time I had during this Personal Project was actually the winter break. I was able to make up for everything I did not do and I even managed to do more. I did that because I knew that It would be hard for me to do anything after the break, meaning during school. I had a general plan of learning, but I wish I would expand it more at the beginning of the project. I understand that at that time I had no prior knowledge about crocheting at all and creating a more detailed plan would be unrealistic.

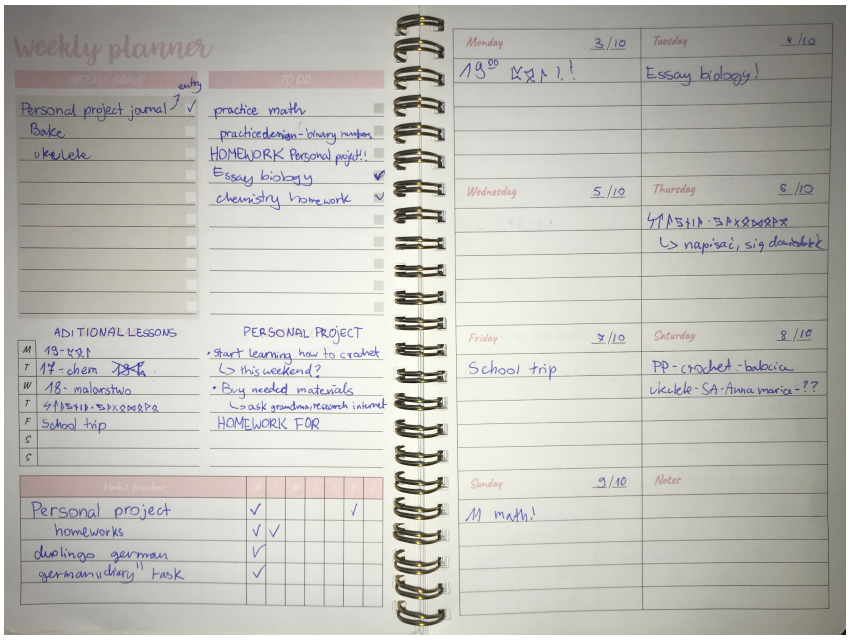


Image 1. Above is an image presenting my weekly planner, which helped me improve my self-management skills, by organising my time and work.

Research skills:
Even though I chose self-management as my key ATL skill for learning, I also used and improved my research skills. Research is the ability to search for, organise, evaluate, use, and present information that is important and on topic. To be honest, at first, I wasn't sure what I wanted to learn exactly. Only after time and a bit of research I did, I understood what I wanted to learn. I was kind of familiar with the whole idea of crocheting in the first place because I saw my family crochet before, but after researching a lot I found out a whole lot more about this topic. I debunked some myths that I had about crocheting and learned the terms used in it. When I was ready and prepared to actually learn how to crochet a piece, I had to look for easy beginner tutorials. After researching for some time, I found a channel that created easy for me to understand tutorials. As a visual thinker, the easiest and most understandable for me were YouTube tutorials. I also looked up crochet command terms for crochet patterns. I got a small notebook in which I wrote down all of my research and the command terms. I also saved them on my laptop to have easy access to them.

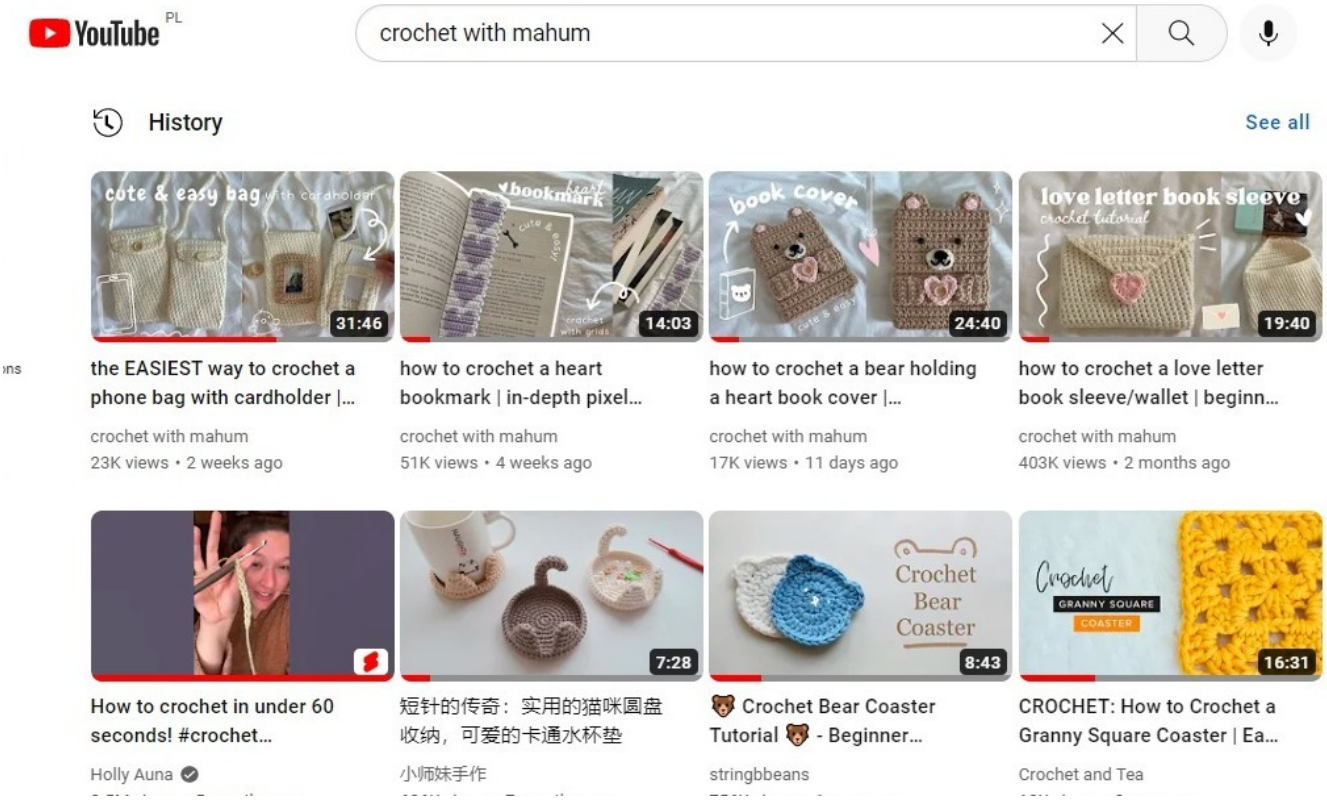


Image 2. The image presented above indicates my research on the YouTube platform in order to find easy tutorials that I can later follow.

Communication skills:
Communication is something we do on a daily basis, and such skills are crucial when it comes to living with others. When it comes to communication it can be verbal and nonverbal communication. It is all about the ability to handle conflict, work with others, have empathy, listen, and have a positive attitude toward others.

The absolute first thing I ever did in order to learn the core basics of crocheting was consulting my family. They told me everything I needed to know about the crochet hook. I asked questions and wrote down everything they told me. The first thing that my cousin taught me from practice was how to make a loop-a slip knot, which is needed to create the chain. After I learned how to do it, we started to do the chain. My grandma sent me YouTube videos on how to crochet a simple hat.

Another example where I used my communication skills is when I consulted with my English teacher. She helped me and showed me what I was doing wrong, and why the pencil-case crochet is not what it was supposed to be. The problem was that I was making the crochet too tight, and it was hard to crochet more rows and it took more time. She showed me how to crochet more loosely. The teacher advised me to redo the pencil case crochet because it was too tight.

Once my step-sister asked me if I could teach her crocheting and explain it to her. I agreed, and teaching her was one of the things that helped me notice how I improved. I also noticed this when I came to Visual Art classes and taught others. My speed of crocheting, hand movement, and placement of the hand. At first, when I was beginning to crochet, I couldn't imagine how my grandma and cousin were placing the hand. I couldn't hold it the way they did. Now, I can do it almost perfectly because I trained my left hand a lot during the last few months. I was surprised at how much some of the people could learn. Some struggled with the fundamentals (like me at first), while others learned at breakneck speed. I became aware of how much my knowledge had grown when other people began asking me questions that I no longer think about. I had to explain different things in different ways, so everyone would understand.

Images 3, and 4. The images presented above represent me using my communication skills by teaching my sibling and a younger grade from my school's Visual Arts classes. The faces are covered for privacy reasons.

2.2 Achieving the product goal- ATL: Communication

Communication:
I chose this ATL skill for my product goal because at first, I wanted to make a crochet sale at school, and donate the raised money to charity. Later on, I found a better but similar idea for my product, but I decided to leave this ATL skill. I did this mostly because I figured that for organizing the auction, I will have to organize different things with different people by communicating with them. Given how shy I tend to be around people I don't know well, I thought that improving my communication skills would help me grow as an individual. For as long as I remember I have struggled with being shy, standing up for myself, organizing, and doing certain things that require me having direct contact with people I don't know, all alone.

When it comes to organizing the crochet auctions, I made my mom contact the organizers. Now when I look back at this, I regret it a lot. Because I felt bad about that, later on, I still called one of them and talked about my crocheted products and where to send them, and all about the ideas for the sets, and the start bidding price. I remember that I was very nervous to do so, but after talking with the lady for a bit I found out that she is actually very nice and it was way easier and more comfortable for me to continue our conversation. I am actually impressed that I called them because calling is more courageous than texting.

To make sure that the products I crocheted are good quality and ready for sale, I went to my neighbor who I did not really know that well before. I asked if I could sell them, and if yes, then how much would they be worth. This was something that my mom recommended me to do because she knew her, and she told me that she crochets very well. At first, I was a bit shy and didn't know what I would say. I almost didn't go, but I am happy that I did because that helped me break the fear, and in the long run now I am way more confident. I am still shy and it's hard for me to organize some things with people. Before I would leave things as they are, but now I can at least come up to them more confidently.

Self-management:
Even though communication is the most crucial in my product goal, I also had to use a lot of self-management skills. As I said before, I am a generally well-organized person, but I had to organize a lot of additional time for crocheting things. I often crocheted on the bus, during the break at school, and while watching movies/series (I watched a whole series still without remembering what the characters looked like because my eyes were focused on crocheting). I did that simply because I didn't have time to complete so many projects in such a short period of time and I couldn't waste a minute. At a specific time, it got to a certain point when I felt bad if I was watching a movie without crocheting. I felt like I was wasting time, and I felt really guilty about it. Later on, I noticed the bad direction that this was going into and I started planning even more about when exactly I would crochet. I wanted to separate crocheting from my personal free time, even though I enjoyed it very much. I decided that I don't necessarily have to reach the first goal I established and that it might have be too ambitious. I changed my success criteria to crocheting 10 pieces instead of 15. Personally, I still think that from completely zero-knowledge crocheting, 10 pieces is a lot.

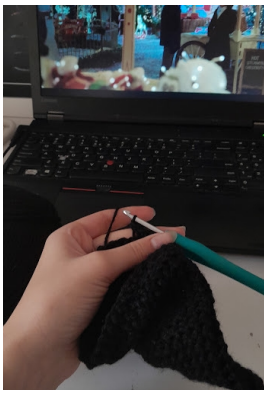


Image 5. The picture above shows how I managed to balance both my Personal Project and free time, by using my organization skills.

Thinking skills:
I also used my transfer skills which are a part of thinking skills. Transfer skills are the way I can use the knowledge and skills that I acquired and basically transfer them into new circumstances. I used them while creating my products because I used the knowledge I already got from creating the previous pieces, and learned from my previous mistakes. I was able to identify my mistakes and not make them again in different patterns, and stitches.

At first, when I was learning, I used to skip a part of a row and that made the whole piece reduce in size. At first, I did not understand the mistake I constantly repeated, and it took me a lot of time to find the answer and improve. Later on, I was able to learn from my mistakes, and even if the piece used a different stitch, I knew how to not make it reduce in size.

Images 6 and 7. The pictures above present how I used my transfer thinking skills in order to implement the correct technique onto new pieces. It also shows the change in my skills.

3. Criterion C: Reflecting

3.1 The impact of the project on me and my learning.

3.1.1 My learning goal:

My learning goal was about learning and acquiring the basics of crocheting. I wanted to learn to make different pieces of clothing like hats, scarves, or even a sweater, and decorations. When I look at it now, some parts of this learning goal are too challenging, and some for me now, sound too easy. It wasn't always like that. In the beginning, I had no idea how to grab the yarn with my left hand and how to effectively and almost effortlessly move my right hand. It took me a lot of time to train both of my hands. At the beginning of the project, I was constantly crocheting in my free time the item that was supposed to turn into a hat (Look, Image 6). That was one of my first mini-goals for the learning goal. It did not work out, because I did not know yet how to properly retain the exact length, but expand the rows. Instead, this helped me train my hands and develop their techniques. When I look at all my progress, and the pictures of my first-ever creations and the latest ones, I can see huge growth in my skills and knowledge. Before, I did not know anything. I just knew that there is some yarn used and a hook. That was it. I did not even know how anything was exactly created by crocheting it. Now I know over ten different stitches, I am able to correctly place both of my hands, and I know and can create over ten different things. Ranging from small flower pins to bags made out of multiple smaller granny squares. I am actually impressed by how much I could learn with a bit of patience and motivation that I got from PP. For me, it is a drastic growth because I always had problems creating things by hand such as bracelets from mouline or crafting in general. I am very happy that I chose this for my PP learning goal because now I can create things like bags, coasters, gloves, keychains, and hats, and personalize them.

Collage 1. Shows the beginnings of my journey.

Collage 2. Represents the products I could make using the skills I managed to acquire in the middle of my journey with Personal Project.

Collage 3. Shows my crocheting skills at the end of the Project.

3.1.2 How I developed as an IB learner. -IB learner profile

During my personal project I noticed that as an IB learner, I became more of a balanced, communicating, and reflective person.

I had to balance my whole life: school work, Personal Project, extracurriculars, friends, family, and my free time. At first, it was hard to balance all of it. I kept forgetting about my Personal Project or that I was doing it instead of having my free time. Thanks to my PP I am better at balancing my life.

Throughout the project, I was also kind of forced to become a better communicator and express myself. I had to organize certain things or ask for help with my project. As I mentioned before, I am a shy person and this was one of the hardest parts of my PP. However, PP inspired me to show others my new hobby. I went to two Visual Art classes and taught others crocheting. That also inspired me later to create a crochet club at my school to teach others. I had to speak with the MYP coordinator, and other teachers to organize the club. Overall, I am very happy I did that and I feel more connected to my school community.

At the beginning of my project, I had to be very reflective. I had to find the mistakes that I made in my creations and learn to fix them. By reflecting on them I could improve my skills and creations.

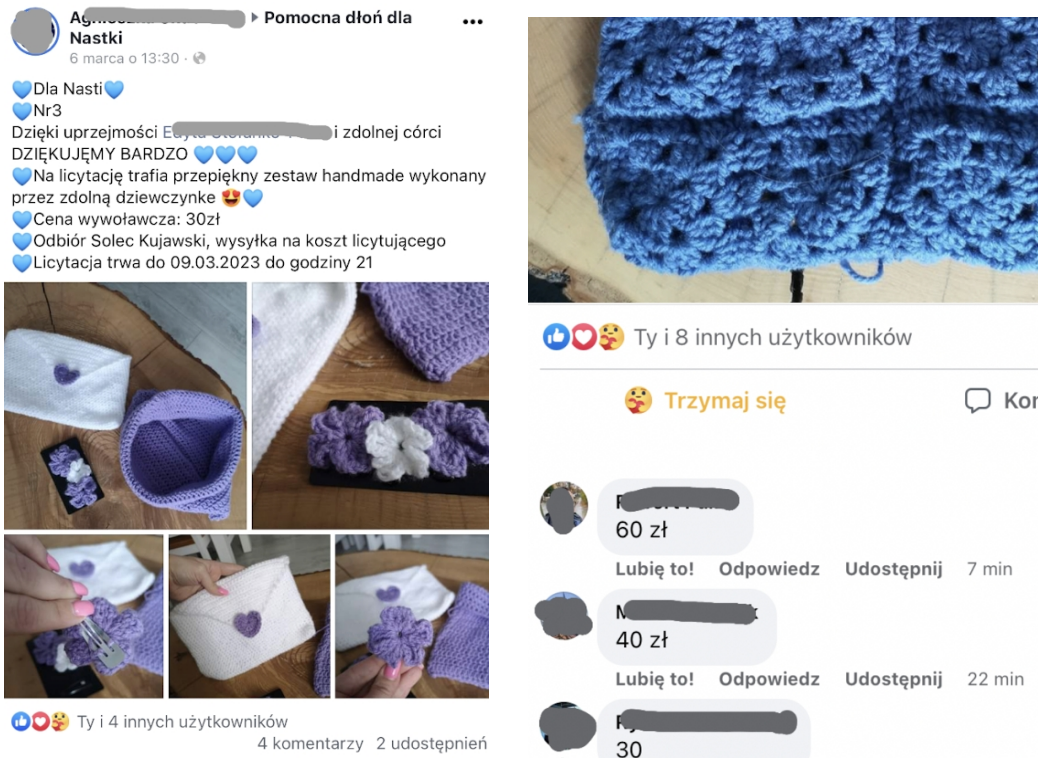
3.2 Evaluation of the product based on my success criteria.

3.2.1 My product goal.

My product goal was to create several crocheted products, and donate them to the Facebook group for sale. The group was created for the collection of money for a four-year-old girl called Nastka. When it comes to crocheting the products for the auction, I started it as fast as possible. I tried to create something right from the beginning, but it turned out that I had to practice way more before actually making something that would end up on the auctions (Look, Collage 1). Some of my products were better than others because they were created at the beginning of my learning and some of them were created at the end. During my whole journey, I created 2 pairs of fingerless gloves, over 15 small hearts and flowers (for practice and the book covers), 3 small phone bags, 3 book covers, one bag made from granny squares, 2 flower coasters, 3 square coasters, 6 flower hair clips, 2 cat hats, 3 bracelets, and one bag for my friends birthday. In total that's about 41 things, not counting all of the projects I did not finish. 13 of them ended up on the crochet auctions. Some of the projects I did not like as much, they were not good enough, or I made for someone else. I sent 13 things for the auctions, and all of them were bought. In order to promote the auctions I decided to create stories on Canva, which I later posted on my Instagram. I picked a blue template, made screenshots of all the auctions, put the link to the auctions, and explained everything needed. In the stories, I put information both in Polish and English. This brought more attention to the Facebook group and also helped Nastka in bringing more bidders, so more money for the operation. I was actually impressed by the amount of money that I raised through the auction, but more about that later.

Image 8. The picture above shows 10 of the products that ended up on the auctions.

Image 9. Shows the package I sent for the auctions. I also put 3 additional flower clips.



Images 10, and 11. The images above show two of five auctions that were a part of my product goal. Image 10 shows one of the auction details, and image 11 shows people bidding up to 60 PLN on another one of my auctions. The usernames and profile pictures are hidden for privacy reasons.

3.2.2 Success criteria-reflection

When it comes to my success criteria I mostly passed all of them. When I look at some of them now they are too easy, and some might be too hard.

Success criteria requirement	What I achieved	My reflections
Create 10 products at least	I made 41 things, but 13 of them actually ended up in the auctions.	When I made this success criterion I did not think of the risk of some things not being good enough for the auction. I know that this sounds a bit obvious that not everything will be perfect right away. Only later I realized how hard and time-consuming this is. At first, I just attempted to make them right away. I still think that making 10 products was a very challenging thing for me, but if I practiced more at first I might have done more.

The auctions have to raise at least the amount of 200 PLN.	In total there were 275 PLN raised.	To be honest I think that my criterion was easy to pass because I calculated everything before, and I knew that if everything would be sold there would be around 200 PLN raised. My calculations were still not fulfilled, because the products ended up being in 5 sets of 2-4 things.
I will know at least three whole patterns by heart.	I remember how to crochet a heart, a flower, 3 different types of granny squares, and book covers.	I think that this is a bit challenging criteria, but still doable if someone is repeating the whole pattern, by creating several products.
I will know at least 5 different stitches by heart.	I know 8 different types of stitches.	In my opinion, this goal was a bit useless because it is obvious that I will remember the stitches by heart if I crochet with the same one constantly. I know how to do 8 stitches because I needed different stitches for different creations.

3.2.3 Improvements and changes

What I would improve in my project is planning it more in the beginning. I am a person that can't make quick decisions and usually leaves deciding on them for later. It was my mistake that I postponed making the decision on what exactly would be my product goal. Another thing that I would change is how I planned my learning. In the beginning, I didn't really plan out what I wanted to learn exactly and I kind of did it spontaneously. I wish I created a plan of learning at the beginning, so I could start creating my products earlier. Overall, I think I completed my Personal Project quite well and managed it even without these changes.