About Knape & Vogt
Knape & Vogt Manufacturing Company designs, manufactures, and distributes furniture components, cabinet hardware, and storage products. Drawer slides are a main product produced.

Main Project
While I was at Knape & Vogt, the main project going on was the acquisition of Waterloo Furniture Components from Ontario, Canada. The machines and products from Waterloo needed to find a home either at the Oak Industrial location, or the new warehouse located on Eastern Ave. Warehouse storage needed to be significantly cut down, and many internal movements needed to be done to optimize production.

My Position
I worked under a Grand Valley Engineering student finishing up his engineering degree. His responsibilities fell under the Industrial Engineering category. I answered to him and the Director of Engineering.

My Responsibilities

Plant Layout
Decisions of where current and incoming machines were made. I had mostly an observant part in that. Main things I did were dimensioning machines on the floor so they were properly represented in CAD drawings and marking up the plant floor for the new locations of machines. I talked with operators, supervisors, and maintenance about best work station set-ups.

Routings
Parts going through new machines or new locations needed to be represented correctly in the system. I had a large part in making these changes. The system from Waterloo was set up differently than our system, so their data needed to properly be put into our system. I had a small part of that process.

Documentation
Paper documents from the last sixty years needed to be properly located in an Excel file so they were easily found. I spent two weeks going through file cabinets recording the date, machine or part number, make, description, and location of the sheets.

Time Studies
Every part has a rate that tells the workers how fast they should be making the part. I found these rates on new parts and parts with incorrect rates.

Online Purchasing and Selling
I was in charge of a craigslist and eBay account selling our unused chillers that could cool the entire plant floor. I negotiated and set up the deal.
I was involved in purchasing new office chairs. I rented a panel van and picked up the order in Columbus, OH.
I was involved with purchasing and assembling height-adjustable Workrite tables.

Location
Knape & Vogt is located on Oak Industrial Dr. off of Maryland Ave. While heading north on the East Beltlimes, you can take a left on Michigan St. right before I96.

What I Have Learned
I learned a ton about manufacturing through observation. There was barely anything to use from my education, so it was a lot to take in. Going into my next engineering position I need to be able to work more on my own. I don’t mean do everything on my own, but be able to identify what needs to be done and not ask the boss what I should be doing after every task. I need to be able to take charge of my own mini-projects.