

Andrew Lyman  
Maptote/Brooklyn  
August 28

Lyman 1

## Summer Internship Report

I interned this summer in Brooklyn, New York for Maptote, a company that designs and manufactures a number of things, but specializes in tote bags. The company is owned by Michael Berick and Rachel Rheingold, and it employs three people. All of the items are manufactured with a design pertaining to specific world regions, and especially to major U.S. Cities. The construction of the items, along with the printing of the designs onto them, is all done locally.

I gained more responsibilities at Maptote as the summer progressed. For the first week or so the company was in the process of moving offices, so I did a lot of inventory, and I moved a lot of things from the old office to the new. Once we were settled in the new office, I was given some more tasks, and these were also, for the most part, very simple. Every day began with me receiving some printed orders from various stores; some orders were from large companies like Jcrew, most were from smaller, non-chain retailers. I would fill these orders by searching the inventory, then get on the company website to mark the changes in inventory. Again, the tasks were not difficult, but I was almost always kept busy, which I liked. I should note that the people I worked with were great, and they were always pleasant to be around. Typically there were three other employees in the office, one of whom was in charge of shipping, one was in charge of researching and creating new designs, and one did essentially whatever else was needed at the time. My job fell in a similar vein to the latter, and I did find myself doing a lot of counting and putting orders into boxes.

Here's what a typical workday at Maptote looked like. I was not required to come into work until 10, which was nice, and after coming in I'd usually fill some orders for an hour or so. After finishing those, and subsequently changing the stock numbers on the company website, I would usually be given a more interesting task to work on, like making a blog post or researching prospective clients. Things were always very stress-free and flexible, and sometimes for lunch I would

Andrew Lyman  
Maptote/Brooklyn  
August 28

Lyman 2

walk to a nearby grocery store, other times I would bring lunch. After lunch I would typically do a number of small tasks until it was time to go at 5:00. These might include more filling of orders, assisting with a photoshoot of Maptote products, transferring credit card information, or unpacking boxes of products and putting them into their designated spaces.

I learned a lot by simply living in Brooklyn going into Manhattan. If you're like me, and did not grow up in a major city, New York City will provide quite a few challenges at first, but for me it ended up being extremely rewarding to be there in the end. I'll admit that the Maptote internship was not the greatest fit for me, and I knew that going in, but I wanted to experience living in New York City for a summer, so I took the internship anyway. This is of course not to say I didn't learn a lot during my time at Maptote, but only to say that for someone truly interested in the Maptote product it would probably be a more exciting workday on average. Still, I did not at all mind the work I did, and a major reason for that was the great people I was working for, and with. These are some of the most pleasant and kind people out there, and for that reason I was always happy to do whatever would make their lives easier. I think if you're interested in the manufacturing of textiles and the process of printing onto clothing, you would be particularly well suited for this internship.