

Lourdes Barahona

Field Trip Report

When I heard we were visiting to the United Federation of Teachers with my class I didn't expect all the surprises that this place had to offer. As we entered the building I thought it would be your regular 9-5 cubicle-offices job. Little did I know what was hidden under that place. I was mesmerized to see how the basement was equipped with printing production machinery. It was a printer's paradise. The UFT had everything you could think of, from digital printing machinery to the classic all manual printers. My favorite machine was the one in charge of placing letters inside of the envelopes and sealing them. It felt like it was a magic trick seeing how the machine carried out such action. Another one of my favorites was the manual printer that dates back to the 1960's. Even though its technology isn't as new, the logic behind how it works is still relevant in print production. With this machine a big roll of paper is inserted and the person in charge set the measurements of how the paper should be cut. It is very convenient machine when making great number of copies. The third and last machine that called my attention was the first one we saw, the one used to make big posters/banners. It was interesting to see how the type of paper plays a big roll in the texture/quality of the print and how putting a layer of plastic on top increases its durability and shine. Overall it was a great experience to see how the printing production process was carried out first hand. It gives you the best insight into what designers have to prepare for.

