Co-op Work Assignment

I was part of the development team of Ascend Analytics, LLC an energy analytics firm based in Oakland, California. My Coop experience at Ascend has been both interesting and enriching mainly because of the working environment and the type of projects that I worked on. The company is divided into sales, services, IT and the development group. Our group was mainly involved in the software development and support for the company.

Being a part of the software development team, my job involved learning SAS (Statistical Analysis System), a statistical language which was used for all the development work. I was given a comprehensive training about SAS language in the beginning. I was also made familiar with the existing analytical tools that the company offered. I found the training well-paced and useful for the later part of my Co-op.

I was eased into the team with some easy tasks in the beginning. These were usually SAS scripts that would implement some client specified functionality. These made me familiar with the SAS language and also provided an opportunity to interact with other developers of the team. I found that the working environment of the company was extremely positive and everyone was always willing to help. My supervisor, although sometimes extremely busy, took full care that I was getting all the help that I needed.

My main project was the development, testing and validation of a statistical engine which used regression techniques in place of some optimization routine to improve run time performance and provide advanced analytics in near real time. This was a long project that gave me an opportunity to interact with a large group of people from all over the company. This also gave me a chance to directly interact with one of the clients.
Evaluation

The best features of the Co-op were the kind of interesting projects that I was able to work on and also the working environment of the company. I found everyone very friendly and responsive and that had a huge positive impression on me.