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Recording Reflection

Dear you,

This isn’t the first time that you have done a recording for your service learning class. In fact this is your second time that you’ve done this. The first was during your first year spring semester, when it was all new and kind of foreign (the whole service learning thing). So to do it again, you kind of knew what to expect and how to do the recording. During this time it was different, the first time around the recording had to do with the arts and how it works in communities, this time around the recording had to do with social justice and the community and multicultural community building/civic engagement. The most important insight that you gained during this recording was that you more self aware of myself and where you stand within the community, along with being socially conscious. The questions that intrigued you the most would have to be about community and social justice. The reason that they intrigued you was because it contained information that you didn’t know about along with questions that you didn’t think about.

Your experience of making this recording was different than the first time you did it when you were 18, now at the age of 20 and experiencing college and learning more outside of what you already knew, it was more in depth. This recording you went beneath the surface because you believe that you’re more self aware of where you stand with you self in regards to social justice. You believe that you were truthfully honest while doing the recording because there is no need to be untruthful during this recording, it’s just you alone no one else will know what you said. During this recording, you didn’t make many discoveries except for when reading the information given during community and social justice. You felt that you weren’t uncomfortable with any of the topics that were brought up because you have lived in those situations and have experienced those types of things. You were a bit tentative while making this recording and you believe that it was because you were put on the spot you did not have time to fully think things through and it was a lot to think about.

For yourself personally the question that was the most difficult to answer was question 10: What is your reaction to the following statements? Talk about whether you agree or disagree with these statements and why.

* + Everyone in the U.S. should have free access to educational programs that would help him or her maintain and develop his or her heritage language and culture.
  + Multilingualism and Multiculturalism are hindrances to the economic, social and economic development of the U.S.
  + A rule requiring employees to speak only English in the workplace at all time, including breaks and lunch time is justified.

The reason that you found this difficult to answer was because there’s so much that can be said. Along with that you don’t agree with the second and third statement of what is being told. The reason that you don’t agree with it is because you don’t see multilingualism and multiculturalism as a hindrances but rather a gateway to understanding and you don’t see a rule requiring employees to be speaking only English in the workplace justifiable because it doesn’t make sense to force people who don’t really speak the language to speak at all times.

Your social group identities impact your opinion and your relationship to “service” because your identities lead you to experiences and different types of exposure. An example that you can give is based on class. Because of where you stand in the class system that our country has, you experience less services than someone who is higher in the system. So for yourself personally, you never had a negative opinion on service nor does your relationship with it reflect it because you are grateful for the services that you are able to get. Another example you can give is based on gender. Because you are a female, you are offered services that people of the opposite gender won’t have a relationship with.

For you, you feel that you know more about the issues that constantly affect aspects of your life because you have experienced the issues, ranging from sexism to race. The issues you feel that you know the least about are the ones you haven’t experienced. Even if you do learn about the issues and talk with other that have experienced those issues, it’s not the same. you can’t make the personal connection because you did not experience those issues. You feel that the reason that you know more about some issues rather than others is all because of experience. To experience something, does not make you an expert in that area but it does allow for you to be aware and have more knowledge of the issue because you have gone through it and know the effects that it has on one’s life.

You believe that your opinions in regards to sexism, race and heterosexism are least likely to change. The issues have affected your life, from jobs, what you can do to what society wants you to be like. You feel that once those issues have deeply affected someone, they have a better understanding of what others are going through. So, for those reasons you feel that your experiences have led you to have these opinions on these issues, which might slightly change but in the end you doubt. You believe that your opinions on issues that you don’t know much about will probably change. The reason for that is because you may gain knowledge and may even experience those issues as you get older. As I said before in the beginning of this, experience and exposure is what leads to opinions.

Some questions that I’ve generated because of making this recording are ones that I hope to find an answer to in the future.

* 1. How will your experiences in the future affect your knowledge in certain issues?
  2. Will your insights be changed as you get older?
  3. How did you make a difference in the community while being a teacher?
  4. Do you believe that you made a difference in the community?