

Hania Gad
Professional Development Critique #2

The purpose of the first workshop was to explore ways to use summer to improve academically and walk away from the workshop knowing how to set oneself up for success in school and post graduation.

The speaker's name was Sarah Jones, the Director of Events at Teach For America alongside her colleague, James who was helping her behind the scenes. This workshop was a meeting that was conducted online by Teach for America on Evolve on July 23, 2024 titled "Turn Summer Lessons into Fall Focus". The workshop started at 3:00 pm and ended at 3:45 pm, lasting 45 minutes.

One of the many important pieces of information one has learned from this workshop is to take advantage of one's summer to better themselves and how to transform summer stories into achievements. This workshop can assist in one's professional growth by focusing on ways to jumpstart one's professional growth. The three ways the speaker covered during the workshop were human relations, design and planning and research and planning.

One will use this information in applying these skills during the summer in anticipation of graduating and improving ones. One has recently incorporated organization and management in one's life and it has been life changing so one is certain that adapting the other techniques enhance one's professional goals.

The biggest take-away from the workshop is how the host asked the students to reflect on their summer so far and brainstorm ways one can turn their summer around in a positive way. The host was very engaging throughout the whole workshop. She asked the students specific questions like what would one like to have achieved by the end of the summer and made the students write their answers in the chat. In addition she provided the participants with a note taker to write down answers to the questions being asked. This helped taking a deeper look inside and really asking oneself what's most valuable. The way one can explain this workshop to peers or colleagues perfectly is it's for anyone looking to improve one's professional and personal life because it focuses on skills building.

This workshop can add to the knowledge obtained at New York City College of Technology because this workshop mainly focused on interpersonal skills. The workshop talked the students through personal experiences, what one has learned about oneself and what environment works best for every individual's personality. The knowledge obtained from this workshop can help one's school and professional career because it helps one reflect on what skills one excels at and how to concentrate on one's weaknesses. Another important point one took note of was

“transferable skills” which are the skills and abilities one can take with them from role to role in one's career journey or from situation to situation through challenges in life. Steps to take towards building a better future and a better self like arranging, planning, analyzing your goals and planning accordingly were all insightful tools to learn more about and take it with oneself not just for one's professional career but also for personal growth.