

Clarisse Gousse

Professor Penner

English 1121

25 February 2020

Word count: 1096

A discourse community is a group of people who share the same set of goals and purposes. The discourse community that I've identified is a community that I take part in which is a study group amongst my 3 friends for our anatomy class. Anatomy and Physiology 1&2 is a hard class and it takes a lot of dedication and studying on your own time, not just memorizing the material but actually understanding the material to be able to use it in the real world. My friends and I are both aiming to be nurse majors and anatomy and physiology is one of our hardest classes that is essential for applying to the nursing program and taking the TEAs exam.

In our anatomy study group we review topics we've gone over in class using the PowerPoint presentations that our professors provide us with, help each other with topics we didn't understand, and share our notes with one another. This study group is a discourse community because we share the same goal of doing well and passing the class and the purpose of our study group is to help each other understand the material to the best of our ability. I researched my group by observing how we interacted when we came together for our study sessions. I took down some notes on how we operated, for example I realized that our main way of communication is through text in a group chat on iMessage. I interviewed one of the girls in the group asking her "What do you think are other ways we communicate other than texting?" She

said *We obviously communicate verbally when we link together to study and also passing our notes could be our main method of communicating besides texting. Joseph, Breanna. Personal Interview 13 February, 2020.* We usually text in the group chat to schedule meet up dates but we usually don't have a specific time to meet up because of our busy schedule but almost always our meetups are on Tuesdays or Thursdays because our anatomy class is on Tuesday and Thursday and after anatomy is over my friends are done and can spare about 2 hours while I have an exact 2 hour break before heading to my next class. This makes it convenient for us to meetup because we don't live in the same area and transportation isn't cheap so studying in the library or academic building after class is beneficial for us financially.

Another thing I noticed in the group is that I'm the one that usually makes study guides and writes or types out the notes to share with the whole group, these study sheets help us a lot for when exams are near. What I learned from observing my notes is that my group and I are very coordinated and determined. I didn't realize it before but we also have a lot of faith in each other and are constantly praising each other. We don't have a negative mindset and we don't let each other doubt ourselves, in a rigorous class it can be hard to stay confident because once you let doubt creep in it is hard for it to go away however my group and I have always given each other encouragement.

I personally don't think that a study group is unique, it's just another group of people with the same goal of passing the class with the highest grade they can achieve with the help of each other however from an outside perspective some might think that a study group could be unique because a good friendship can come out of it and connections in college are very essential so the friendships you make with the people you study can help you later on in ways that you won't

think of. In our study group reliability is one of the most important things that matter to us because it will cause discord amongst the group if more than one person is unreliable for example when someone texts the group chat with a question for help we can always rely on the fact that someone will reply in a timely fashion. Our group values unity, trust, reliability and being organized. For someone to become a member they can always ask us for additional help and we can tell them that if anatomy tutoring doesn't go with their schedule they can always spare at least an hour to study after class with us, the process is informal.

One way of communicating as stated before is texting each other, the way communicate with the outside world is when we're talking about the topic that we've learned in class using the medical terminology to other classmates in class discussions, with family members which in my case my mother is a nurse and is my inspiration for wanting to be a nurse so when I talk to her about what I've learned in anatomy I use the medical terms I've learned. Also our professor because when we're asking him questions we communicate with him using the same terminology that we've been taught.

When someone asks you, what community do you belong to? We usually refer to our ethnic community or just a religious community however we never really look deeper into what makes a community what it is and separates a community from a discourse community. This project made me realize that my own study group was a community of a it's own and I learned what a discourse community was and what makes it a discourse community, my study group is not only a community but a discourse community and what makes it discourse community is that we share a common goal. What surprised me about my discourse community is how unified we are and how much we're willing to do the best we can. Although I included only one interview it

was still fun observing my group and taking notes down like I was a scientist and they were my lab rats, the overall experience of this project was very insightful and eye opening on what communities are and how much I really didn't know until this project. Initially I thought my group was just people with the same interests who's only met each other the semester prior however after careful observation I realized we were more than just a study group with a goal we are also a good group of friends who can rely on each other especially in nursing where it's so competitive.