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A discourse community sounds a little funny and the discourse throws everyone a bit off. In easier terminology a discourse community is made up of a group of people who have goals and use their communication to achieve these goals whether individual or collectively. While thinking of a discourse community I tried to connect my mind to groups that I've had interactions with and those who surround my surroundings. I began to piece in my mind groups of friends and groups of people that surrounded me at my own college. As I pieced together all these groups I saw that they all had one specific goal in common and questions on determining what really makes a discourse community began to build in my head.

My biggest interest in this group came about from one my majority of friends being within this community and as well as my significant other. It was the first community that came to mind because they're just a great group of people as well because of the vast majority of time I'm surrounded by them. This group is the skating community I have looked up to them ever since I could remember I always felt as if skating was the biggest underrated sport. When presented with the opportunity to be able to interview my skating friends I was ecstatic because although I know them it was in it's on form seeing them shine in a different light there were things that I learned about them and the way they view life that I wasn't even aware of. I

proceeded to interview my significant other Roberto Morales as well as my best friend Elvis Vallejo who are conjoined in the skating community. I held an interview with them both individually and asked them the same set of questions because they have their own perspectives and a specific way of viewing their community. I started off with Morales some of his responses stood out to me the most such as when I asked what do people need to know if they're joining their group as to which he answered that there's varieties of skaters and each group is distinct but that in agreement as a whole skaters are accepting of anyone and everyone because at some point they felt lost and through the welcomeness of the community they found themselves and their identity. It differed to what Vallejos responded. It seemed that Vallejo had more expectations of those joining he wanted people to know that no cocky person was wanted in his circle. As I continued to dive more into the skating community I not only as said before got to speak to people but I also got to see them in action which revealed more. As for Morales group of skaters was not dominated by one but by all they communicated with one another and there was rarely any conflict. Communication amongst them and the way they spoke between both groups have big differences, Vallejos group was more posh and refined while Morales as he best described it in when I interviewed him was comedic and relaxed. A big eye opener was when I asked them what their goals were because I assumed that as skaters they're goal would be to become pro skateboarders but I was mistaken. Morales' resound was simply that alongside his group skated to have fun and enjoy themselves and meet new people amongst learning new tricks as well but their goal wasn't to become pro. As to Vallejo and his group their goal was to practice and get better and while enjoying it and have their efforts pay off and become pro at some point. They all communicate through Instagram but they have set group chats based on the

groups they are in. My favorite part of all of this was seeing them respond to how communicate with the outside world because these are just magnificent people and from hearing and seeing them they're just so kind to everyone because as they both said no one knows what others go through so the aim here is to treat everyone with as much respect and kindness as they can. Discussing their language with them was interesting because both Morales and Vallejo gave me a puzzled look when I asked. They understood as I explained how they usually would talk amongst with their people to which they both said it's all jokes here and common slang they all share inside jokes and curse way too much. As I watched them skate I heard them curse when they didn't land a trick and curse amongst each other in a jokingly way. I was genuinely curious to see how welcoming they were with new people but then I realized I was the perfect example when my partner took me I was received with zero judgment and made to feel like one of them it was like receiving a warm hug which I was also received with hugs and complete strangers become family which is what they want everyone to feel.

My experience being around skaters and talking to them in a more formal way which was through interviewing two skaters helped me shape how I saw them and what I wanted people to see in this group. They're all a group of amazing people who only care to have people find a place we're they are welcomed and feel zero judgment I can vouch for it. I don't think I can list everything new that I've learned about this community. I learned the meaning of compassion and kindness to not only hear from them but see how this is done is honestly the best experience. I remember seeing kids trying to learn tricks and older skaters approaching them to help them tweak mistakes that we're holding them back from reaching perfection and how they talked about the fear of some because they felt too scared to try. This group is everything and more

they're a unique group of individuals who are warm and welcoming and have zero judgment and who does not tolerate any kind of discrimination towards anyone I've never met a group who has made others feel like they have a home.

All in all I walked away from this experience with a set of new eyes for the skating community in the best way possible. I always felt like they were good people because they are my people but seeing them and learning from them in a non biased way helped me see why this community is so big and progressively has gotten bigger. I could not be more proud to see people want to join and to see this community be represented in higher ways and with more to come.

Works Cited

Morales, Roberto. Interview on Skateboarding Community, South Bronx, New York 17 Feb. 2019.

Vallejo , Elvis. Interview on Skateboarding Community, South Bronx, New York 17 Feb. 2019.