**FARLEY GRAINGER, ENG 11212 # and Section # 402**

**Prof. Schmerler**

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**UNIT III – Learning from Each Other: Affinity, and Inquiry**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS:**

**Section 1: YOUR SKILL/INTEREST DURING CONFINEMENT/ WITH SOURCES**

**Section 2: Inquiry -- YOUR INVESTIGATION OF OTHERS’ SKILLS AND WHAT YOU LEARNED TOGETHER**

**Section 3: REFLECTION AND SELF ASSESSMENT**

**Section 1: YOUR SKILL/INTEREST DURING CONFINEMENT/ WITH SOURCES**

Farley Grainger

MY SKILLS/ACTIVITIES ARE...

[What is an activity that you are pursuing doing this time that interests you? List more than one if you have more than one.]

1. Baseball

2.Drawing

3. Gaming

[Pick One from the above, and see below what we want you to do next.]

**1.Here You will tell us a little bit about WHAT YOU ALREADY KNEW BEFORE the confinement/what your experience has been with this skill/activity.**

When it comes to baseball I always knew it was a way to pass time and have fun and that it was a very popular sport. I first started playing at 13, and at the time, the Boston Red Sox won the title, and my favorite player was Xander Bogaerts (a Dutch player) who was amazing at defense and a decent hitter. During this time, I was starting to understand the concept of baseball more. For example, baseball is played counter-clockwise, which means every batter takes turns etc. This sport was unique to me in the sense it was much different than sports such as hockey, football, basketball, and soccer because of how fast paced those games are compared to the slow paced and meticulous fashion that baseball assumes, games can last up to hours and are very unpredictable. It is a very fair sport because size does not necessarily give a player an advantage, skill does. Over the years I have learned more about the sport while also gaining a new idol, Byron Buxton. Buxton is a Center fielder for the Minnesota Twins, who is extremely great at defense and has immense speed.

**2. Here You will tell us SOMETHING NEW you learned about it during this confinement period. If you haven’t learned anything new, then go out now and find out something(s) that you didn’t know about it before!**

One new thing I learned about this skill was playing a different position, Shortstop. Despite the fact everyone must stay quarantined, I still go outside and practice but with social distancing. My friend’s father taught me that playing shortstop is about having range and having fast instincts. I also learned that shortstop requires a very strong arm to throw a runner out because since shortstop is further away from first base, a throw must be released quickly with enough speed to record a putout. When I was practicing my throws from shortstop, I realized I have a good arm at the position, however, I did have trouble working the short hops( a short hop is the description of a batted ball’s erratic movement as it is coming to a player, the movement may possibly cause a fielder to commit an error). I also have been watching Youtube videos on how to play the position properly.

**3. Here You Will Give credit to THE SOURCE(s) of this new information and tell us bit more about this/these sources and why you like them. Show us where we can go to find them.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDf2BjwaLI0>

The link above is a Youtube video teaching how to properly play shortstop and many different mistakes a player should fix when playing that position. The instructor of this video is former MLB player Matt Antonelli, who became a very well-known youtuber after his professional career. He touches on almost every topic of baseball. I like his videos because he is very explicit when it comes to explaining and he uses videos of other players when explaining to his viewers. Another thing he does that I am fond of is using diagrams in his explanation, which is different than what most popular baseball youtubers do, but it is still a big help, nonetheless.

**4: Context/Brief explanation to explain your skill/interest\***

If I had to explain my interest, I would say it is very exhausting. The reason playing SS(acronym for Shortstop) is tiring is the fact that it takes a big amount of responsibility to play. It can be fielding hard hit balls at a tough angle, being fast, having a strong arm, taking charge of infield fly balls etc. After practicing SS, you may find yourself extremely sore and with cuts and scrapes on your legs, and sore knees. If anyone who is interested in baseball wants to try out this position, they should watch Youtube videos and watch major leaguers play. I would even go as far as telling anyone who wants to become a better leader or be in a leadership position to study the shortstop position. The reason I would recommend this is for the simple fact that SS is a position based around leadership, as they are referred to as “the captain of the infield”. A shortstop has plenty responsibility to bear, and it would give you a helpful on what you need to do to be a better leader.

**Section 2: Inquiry -- YOUR INVESTIGATION OF OTHERS’ SKILLS AND WHAT YOU LEARNED TOGETHER**

**After you communicate\* with your partner, this is what you will both tell us in your shared PAIR document:**

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1.What you have in common  -- *where you meet on common ground on a deeper level, as well*

K: From a short glance of what you have written I realized that we are both sportsmen who are passionate about our craft and have a genuine love for sports.

F: Yes we have much in common as sportsmen as we know about our craft and know what takes to excel at the sport.

K: I realized you started playing at a young age, I used to play soccer as a pastime when I was a kid. My time would entail running around aimlessly kicking the ball, I had no sense of what exactly to do also there was no structure to my game. As I got older and continued to play, and I joined a soccer academy where I was able to nurture my raw talent and play the sport in a more structured way. By learning all the rules that affect the flow of play. I also played competitively in high school winning two championships, while also playing in the first and premier divisions of my country's national league.

???? ask questions of each other….

K:So tell me what made you gain interest in baseball? What spark or significant moment you had that made you develop the love you have for the sport?

F: I gained interest from my mom when she suggested that I join an outside baseball league for the summer. I never did play in the league, but I started watching pro baseball more and more. I did not actually start playing until freshman year of high school, and like you, I did not know much about baseball and mostly had raw talent. It was not as until I got older that I started to gain more skill and knowledge about the game.

F: Do you still play soccer still to this day?

K: Yes, I still play soccer during spring and summer when I have more free time. I have not played competitively in a long while though, I mostly play to keep myself fit and it is fun and stress relieving.

2.What **new** thing(s) you **learned** from each other

F: I learned that soccer is almost inoperable without socializing. Soccer takes people coming together and playing the game, similar to baseball and how every player literally needs one another to keep a game flowing. Soccer requires physical toughness, similar to that of baseball.

K: I have learned that we both have similarities in how we got introduced to our respective sports and that we both love and enjoy the competition and brotherhood formed by playing sports. He did not start playing competitively until high school which was also similar to how my competitive career started.

3.What **new** thing the other person pushed you to **learn about your own skill**

**F: Kebeon pushed me to learn why more people don’t exhibit the act of brotherhood. What I mean by that is when a lot of people play baseball, they are only worried about their own performance and want to make themselves look good. Some baseball players don’t care about their teammate’s performance and won’t help them gain confidence when they have a bad game. I just want to understand why a lot of people don’t socialize more when playing this game.**

**K: Farley pushed me to realize that brotherhood in playing team sports is extremely important to have a great team performance and it also promotes a stronger bond with teammates. Playing soccer relies a lot on how well each member of the team communicates and works together.**

4.What new **perspective** you gained from doing this exercise

F: A new perspective I gained from this exercise is that no matter what sport you play, it will always require some sort of team effort to be successful. I even started to realize that baseball is a metaphor for life in the sense that when you play baseball you have to rely upon your skill rather than your physical advantages. I also realized in baseball you will fail a lot, but it is about how you recover from the failure and try to stay consistent.

K: From this exercise I have realized that no matter where you were raised there are people from different cultures that share the same upbringing and experiences that you have. We also share similar characteristics and the determination to strive for greatness in whatever we do.

**Section 3a: REFLECTION on pair**

 Me and my partner (Kebeon) were both late to do our peer assessments for the skill project, however, I instantly realized that we both related to one another about our topics. I wrote about baseball and he wrote about soccer. These two sports may seem to contradict one another, but when we were doing this assignment, we found that ourselves and both these sports had plenty in common. When Kebeon explained soccer, he told me that it was a very physically demanding sport and that he had to learn how to play the sport from when he was young. He did not know what he was doing at first, but he started to pick up his skill and got good, which is very similar to my situation. I also expanded upon Kebeon’s notion that soccer is a sport based upon brotherhood and used that to explain how baseball is the same way too. I realized baseball is all about communication and working together, like a brotherhood. I originally put a great deal of emphasis on me learning about the shortstop position, but then I started talking to Kebeon and further expanded more on my thoughts on baseball as a whole, to which I gained my own theory. The theory I realized was baseball is a metaphor for life, and thanks to working Kebeon I have been trying to figure out more about life and baseball.

**Section 3b: SELF ASSESSMENT**

 Unit 3 was very interesting and by far the best unit I have done this far. I say this because I was able to express my skill to people that I didn’t know and look at what skills they possess. I felt as if I saw a bit of their character and learned more about what kind of person they might be, for example, Briana explained her love for gaming and Nakiah explaining the history of makeup. Unit 3 was the most expressive assignment in the sense that we were able to explain our skills and do more research on it. I felt as if I had much more freedom and fun with this assignment as I paired up with Kebeon and learned something new about his sport, and a new theory about my own sport. I liked how some students that were paired, didn’t have very similar skills and were pushed to be more open minded in finding common ground with one another. I thought it was great how professor Schmerler would go on zoom calls with us and take interest in our individual skills and ask us questions about it. The grade I think I deserve is an A-. The reason for that is I explained my skill in a very understanding way for someone who does not know much about baseball. I also felt I improved writing in concise language, grammar, and punctuation usage for this assignment, which I struggled with in earlier assignments and projects in this class. I started my project later than expected, but I did find a way to pair up with someone and get the job done well while learning some new things in the process. I felt I wrote what was necessary in my assignment, I did not sprawl or include unnecessary content. I found this assignment to be helpful to my inquisitive self and being more open to learning about my peers in the future.