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English 1121 Sec.402

Professor Schmerler

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UNIT III - LEARNING FROM EACHOTHER: AFFINITY, AND INQUIRY

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SECTION 1: YOUR SKILL/INTEREST DURING CONFINEMENT/WITH SOURCES

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. Encourage students to do their best.
2. make sure each student is following along.
3. Come up with new ways to help students focus better and stay in their seats.
4. Great at communicating.

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

Great at communicating. (I don't have any hobbies so I picked something that I am good at from work)

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.

My coworkers and my boss would tell me that I learn quickly when it comes to how to better communicate with parents with their child's behavior. I was told that I am able to hold a conversation with parents professionally. I was able to talk to parents in a mature tone that is not aggressive or rude. Also, my friends often ask me for advice or ask me to explain situations to them when they don't understand.

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! (I am not saying that I am definitely good at conversations, I can only that I am good at it based on what people around me said.)

There were a couple of incidences where my friends would talk to me about their personal problems and what they were concerned about. I was able to explain to my friend who is an incoming freshman next year on how CityTech functions, where are all of the buildings, and where to get food. My friend told me that I was able to help her out with different issues in a very understanding tone without any judgment. Another person said that the way that I deliver my message is very clear, straight to the point, and easy to understand. Also, I was told that I am very comfortable to talk to and is reliable. The answers or opinions I give are sincere and helpful.

(My class from last year)



SECTION 2: INQUIRY- YOUR INVESTIGATION OF OTHER'S SKILLS AND WHAT YOU LEARNED TOGETHER

Conversation:

Blue is Kenny Pink is Jennifer

Hey Kenny. My Snapchat user is [jenlinxd](#) or you can text me at 9173405508.

I have a few questions for you :)

1. What is the hardest part when it comes to cooking?

The hardest part is when you have to time putting the food in a pot or pan or wherever correctly, not too early nor too late. Since you want some foods to come out the way you want it to taste by delaying for a couple of seconds can make the food dry or burn when you're not consistent. Most of the time you have to be consistent on what order and how you put/mix the foods together.

2. Do you think your interest in cooking could be inherited from your dad since he is a chef?

Yes, I think so since he has told me so many stories of him making food that I have never heard of before and how much fun he had doing something that he loved doing. Cooking is such a blessing especially if you know how to do it, you can make whatever you want when you want and you won't have to be unsure whether or not it's good because you're experienced and you know what you are doing. He did make cooking very important in my life because everyone needs food to survive so why not learn this essential skill of cooking. He has been in the restaurant business for so long so his stories keep me interested and motivate me to be just as good as he was.

3. How many siblings do you have?

I only have one sibling who is younger than me and in 8th grade

4. What is your favorite cuisine?

Sadly I don't have a favorite cuisine but my top 3 would be Spanish, Italian, and American. Because Spanish specifically Ecuadorian cuisine is where my parents originated from and from their traditions they brought to the U.S which we eat almost every day, also Dominican Cuisine too such as plátanos and habichuelas (beans) with a side of rice and chicken or any meat of desire. There is much more that I like to cook but being broad such as other Spanish countries are what I really like cooking. Italian is one of my

favorite's too because I love pasta whether it's with meat or seafood just having the fettuccine, penne, angel hair and etc would make my mouth start drooling already. My father has made the best kinds of pasta I've had ever had but I have been attempting to do it the way he does because Italian cuisines require a lot of garlic for taste. Lastly, Americans would be making burgers and fries or just making breakfast such as an omelet with home fries or bacon with scrambled eggs and home fries or just waffles and pancakes which are my favorite to eat for breakfast. My family and I are very broad but we try to switch it up and not eat the same thing almost every day because you do get bored and would like to try something new.

Sorry Jennifer for responding very late but when you have the chance if you can answer some questions I have of my own that would be wonderful :) and my Snapchat user is @qzrome0 and my number is 646-468-4408

1. Have you always been an outgoing person ever since you were growing up?

As a kid, I was a very shy kid. I remember always being quiet and never talked as much. Maybe it was because of the language barrier since I moved back to the US when I was 7. As time went by I started becoming more vocal because I started having the mindset of "I don't care what other people think if I am annoying but I have to get it out there".

2. Have you tried any other activities such as sports, art, dancing, etc ?

I used to do Taekwondo for two years until I couldn't balance going to practice, work, and school. I miss Taekwondo but it is hard to find time to put it into my schedule because the practice is at around 8 pm. I thought about going back after this term ended but CoronaVirus happened.

3. Have you ever had any issues with communicating?

I can't think of any instances where I struggled to speak up. I did get into trouble a lot because sometimes my words are too straight forward and might have been rude. My mom mentioned that as a kid I was very sassy.

4. Lastly, has there been anyone that you have had difficulty communicating with?

I find it very hard to talk to people that are very stubborn. Talking to people that are stubborn feels like you are talking to a wall, especially, when people ask for your advice or opinion but they reply that I am

wrong. Also, some parents that I have spoken to are so full of themselves or they refuse to believe that their kids aren't perfect as they think they are. All I want is to address the issues to them and I get a response where the parents either think it's not a big deal or that I am being dramatic.

Reflection:

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

Blue is Kenny Pink is Jennifer

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

Well for starters we have both attended an activity for self-defense and learning martial arts such as taekwondo/Karate. We both happened to speak up and put ourselves out there in the world whether it was with friends, family, or the people around us. One thing I can heavily relate to with Jennifer is finding it hard to communicate with stubborn people not only with cooking but when I'm trying to explain something to certain people they don't understand or try not to be very one-sided. I like to be straightforward as well as Jennifer does because there is no better way of getting your point across by saying what/ how you truly feel instead of throwing hints unless I'm going to hurt the person mentally I try to switch my words around sometimes to not make them feel bad.

We were paired together randomly by our professor. When I read his skill's document I wonder if she paired us together by mistake. I could not find a single topic that he mentioned in his skill worksheet would correspond to anything that I wrote. I decided to reach out and leave my contact in the pair worksheet. We asked each other a couple of questions and it turned out that we share similar aspects in life. We found out that we both attended martial art classes. Usually, martial art isn't as popular as football or basketball so I was a little surprised. We also share similar aspects with our personalities. We are both straightforward and speak up for ourselves, in a way we are trying to get our words through in a realistic way without purposely making it sound nice. We also found it hard to communicate with others that are very stubborn. We both agree that it is a waste of time to communicate or give advice if they will be offended or not even listen to it.

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

I learned a lot of new things about Jennifer such as her being very outgoing, real, and confident. Not many people are like that and it takes real courage for someone to step up to those character traits coming from a different country at the age of 7. It's true though, not caring about what people think about you because holding back can make you miss a lot of opportunities in the future. Being outgoing isn't easy at all because there are many people who are shy, antisocial or just simply don't want to get involved, but by missing out on talking to other people you miss out on the bright ideas and thoughts they have which you as a person may have never thought of yourself either. Being realistic is what some people lack by living in a fantasy and not noticing real-world problems or just any problem affecting you and the ones around you. Sometimes we all want to wish for the best but in reality, the world may turn on us making it hard for someone to face facts but you must have the courage to keep your head up and continue living on. Lastly, being confident and not cocky can get you so many places into your life by standing up for yourself/beliefs that make people know what you are talking about. Confidence doesn't mean show off or just brag about who you are but knowing that you are trying your hardest to reach your full potential and fall but still get back up and continue to push forward for whatever obstacle there is yet to come.

I learned a lot about Kenny's life and his love for cooking. I can tell that he is very proud of himself for being able to cook different meals every day and have it as an essential skill. Knowing how to Cook will ensure that he will not be starving and eating healthy home-made meals anywhere in the world as long as he has money to buy groceries. His interest in cooking was inspired by his dad and their cultural background. He has many different favorite cuisines like Spanish, Italian, and American. His family and he are not shy to try out different food from different cultures. Kenny also shares a similar aspect in personality like me. Kenny is not shy to speak up for himself and he is confident. He rather gets his true feelings out by communicating instead of hiding it from the fear that it would hurt someone. He does not like talking to people that are stubborn because the conversation is not productive and it does not get anywhere. Lastly, he mentions being straightforward is not a bad thing because it makes you real and many appreciate it.

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

Something new I learned was to get out of my comfort zone and look into cooking different types of cuisines that I have never thought of cooking before.

Also communicating with others and explaining to them how cooking works and the procedure one must follow to cook. But learning how to work as a team with people can help make everything finish quicker and have fun while doing it too. I now know that learning how to cook new foods can be beneficial besides just cooking three different types of cuisines for the rest of my life.

Kenny mentioned that one of his favorite cuisines is Italian food. I always liked fettuccine and think it is such an awesome dish to eat at any time. Through the communication I had with Kenny I want to learn to make different Italian pasta dishes. I always had brushed off how to make it on my own because my mom doesn't like pasta. I should be more open and courageous and take a step toward making my own nice and creamy fettuccine.

4. What new perspective you gained from doing this exercise

A new perspective I have gained due to this exercise was to learn a lot about Jennifer although we have never talked in class we have some similarities with each other. I think that by asking each other questions it helped both Jennifer and I gain a greater understanding of each other. It just took the right questions to ask for us to be comfortable and speak our minds to each other. I now know that maybe sometimes when there are two different activities being compared there can be some similarities in what you do and the people describing what they do can show how much you really are alike.

A new experience that I gained from this exercise is that 2 associates in the same class that never spoke before can have many similar perspectives of their personality. I think by putting our guards down and having a heartfelt conversation with someone, you can learn a lot about the other person. If we each put in the effort, then we will be able to discover the similarities between us. It was interesting that we were able to find a common ground between us despite the drastic difference between our skills. It was a great experience meeting a new friend at the end of the term, especially that I barely talked during class.

**(modes of discussion, lively interaction, strong and opinionated and helpful questioning are a few things I will be looking for here)*

Personal Thought:

To be honest I felt the same way when I was younger, about not caring what other people think of you because it is the true friends who accept you for who you are. Regardless of your flaws, no one would care about it because there's something about you that they like and are thankful for. Also, you speaking up and out makes you confident/open-minded because you could've just stayed to yourself for all this time but you decided to talk to other people and reach out for an opportunity you could have potentially missed in your life.

That's really cool though I used to do karate when I was like 11 and I used to love going after a while I couldn't balance it because I had church school so my mother had wanted me to do the sacraments of my religion making me drop karate. I did it for one year and a half years. I don't remember since I was young but I learned a lot and made a couple of friends. I was thinking of joining back since my father had always been a strong and fierce man to me, he wasn't scared of anything which was him going to taekwondo learning about self-defense.

I like that we were able to find common topics by asking each other more questions and communicating. It is cool to see that we were able to relate although we never spoke in person. I also loved going to Taekwondo and I still think about going back but it is hard to find the time. I hope we both will be able to go back soon or later and fulfill our dream.

SECTION 3: REFLECTION AND SELF ASSESSMENT**A.**

My partner is Kenny Uruchima, he is a very talented person when it comes to cooking. His favorite cuisines are Spanish, Italian, and American. A large part of his favorite cuisines was influenced by his culture. Kenny's family immigrated from Ecuador and they brought their love for their country's food to the USA. Kenny's love for cooking is inherited from his dad. I can tell that Kenny is very proud that he can cook because he described cooking as an essential skill. While I was talking to Kenny we discovered that we shared many similarities. For instance, we both agree that speaking up for ourselves is important. Speaking up for ourselves will ensure that we won't important opportunities that were given. Furthermore, we also agree that it is important to be straightforward to get our feelings through people that we are communicating with. It also gives others the impression that you are a real person. Lastly, we both agree that talking to people that is stubborn or too full of themselves is very unproductive because the person would refuse to consider or listen to your advice.

B.

It is shocking how fast this term went by. This is my first term at City Tech. I liked this more urban environment more than Brooklyn College. I guess I am a true city girl. Professor Schmerler's class is very unique compared to my English class at Brooklyn College. This class was a lot for flexible and we had a lot of freedoms with the assignments we did. Even during the in-class times, we had a lot of fun and many interactive activities. This class was easy to get by and was entertaining. Every day in this class is different but equally fun. The skills assignment

that was given was extremely interesting. I didn't expect to be able to find so many common things between my partner and I. I didn't aspect this group work to go so smoothly because many times when we are assigned to random people, you usually end up with people would doesn't contribute.

One thing that I can work on is to participate more in class. I am not a morning person and often in the morning, I have a bad poker face that gives a false indication that I am mean or unapproachable. I am often half asleep during class time so I usually do not want to talk. I don't know if I will ever be able to participate during morning classes because I am always tired in the morning. Maybe on certain days, I will feel more awake...maybe.

I think I deserve an A because I am consistent and also do the work for this class. I submit my work on time and put in a lot of effort into it. I always attend early morning Zoom meetings when often I really want to sleep. Lastly, I follow instructions and always meet your expectation. :)