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English 1121 Section 402

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

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

Kenny Uruchima

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. Playing Video games (FIFA 20/Call of Duty)
2. Cooking
3. Listening to different artists/music

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

1.

Well for starters I began making food when I was in 5th grade like making easy things, such as hot dogs, eggs scrambled specifically and toasting bread. They are pretty easy but as I got older, I soon learned how to make rice, bacon, Bacon egg and cheese on a roll, Sirloin steak, grilled chicken, and making chicken broth. I learned most of these things from my father, who was a chef for a French restaurant in the upper west side of Manhattan.

2.

I learned how to make steak with onion and tomatoes with rice, frying plantains, Chicken outlet with penne and tomato sauce. I learned how to make chicken noodle soup and beef stew soup. Although cooking salmon which is my favorite fish to eat came out pretty good with just the right amount of seasoning and not overcooking it as well. I learned these dishes from my parents since my mother loves making soup and my father really knows about different types of meat and how to cook them depending on how cooked I want.

3.

The credit I give is to my parents and watching YouTube videos not anyone specifically but the people who help guide you into making whatever dish you want. Also watching MasterChef really got me into cooking other foods I have never even tried before. My parents have been working in the restaurant business for most of their lives and they even opened up a diner in queens, court square but it didn't end well since they ran out of business. I also loved the way my father cooked especially when he would tell me the key ingredient to making food is with love. But to be honest if you want to learn how to make any type of food you want you can always check YouTube. Also MasterChef is a show which my older cousin introduced to me ever since I was in 7th grade and I was very interested in how the show ran which had a certain number of people who had to cook under a time limit any dish they could with the types of food they had in front of them. They had to make it really good, good enough for Chef Gordon Ramsey to like their food and he was known to be one of the most criticizing food critics' out of the other two judges in the show. They baked in the show too, but I don't really do baking because I like to think of it as pastries which mostly involve flour, bread and etc. I mostly like cooking foods that include animals that can be eaten.

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

My interest/skill based on cooking has been through so many stories and experiences I have had ever since I was a little kid, such as my mother telling me one day if your father or I are gone how will you be able to survive if you don't cook. Being said that it was a really good point because I'd rather cook my own food since I know exactly what I'm putting into it. Also since my parents have worked in restaurants, my mother has told me various stories of how her coworkers from her past jobs cook carelessly, touching food with their bare hand or scratching their head or even dropping a piece of the dish and putting it back on the plate as it never happened which is why she prefers to stay home and eat. My father though on the other hand explained to me how his job as a chef in a fancy French restaurant which sadly closed down due to the owners not paying the taxes, made many types of dishes in a big group. The kitchen was broken down into certain parts, where there are soup-chefs, salad makers, cooks, him being the chef etc. Basically, this was called the line and every person had to put their part onto the plate and he would be the last person to receive it and see what it is that's missing or if it was ready to be brought out. Most importantly although they worked tirelessly/non-stop in the kitchen they had to do it quickly and just right since the customers would pay expensive prices for the dishes to come out perfect. After all his years of cooking his number one rule was to cook with love because if they don't put any care into the food you make then it wouldn't come out good but if you take the time your food might come out the way you want it, perfect.

SECTION 2: Inquiry -- YOUR INVESTIGATION OF OTHERS' 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 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 (plantains)

and habichuelas (beans) with a side of rice and chicken or any meat of desire. There are much more that I like to cook but being broad such as other Spanish countries is 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 pastas 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 American 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 @qnzrome0 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 to 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 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 makes 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 him are not shy to try out different food from different cultures. Kenny also shares a similar aspect in personality as 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 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 mind 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 are 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 but 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 year. 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 3a: REFLECTION ON YOUR PAIR

My partner for the pair work was Jennifer Lin. At first, we didn't do so well since we hardly knew each other but once I got to answer and ask her questions of my own then the conversation took a quick turn. Later we worked really well with each other having similarities in the things we do/did. Our original connection was about how she talked about her past and I can relate to her because we were both outgoing and didn't care what people thought about ourselves as long as we put ourselves out there, that's what mattered the most. I just see some of the traits I have within her too being realistic, confident and very outgoing. The connection took a turn once we started asking each other questions, she was the first to ask me but I responded late to them thus making it harder for us to find similarities in very little time but once I asked her the right questions her responses shocked me because I never took her for someone to be outgoing. Our discussion didn't get a lot on a new level, but I am really glad we could relate to each other even if it wasn't through cooking but the way we are as a person. I asked her questions that related to what activity/hobby she chose which was being great at communicating. The comments are my personal thoughts of her answer to my questions. Jennifer had also asked me questions about cooking and how many siblings I had. It drove our understanding to a greater experience we would have never reached if never had we asked each other questions. I learned a lot about Jennifer and who she is as a person, we both shared similar experiences and characteristic traits making us get to know each other well. One of the biggest lessons I've learned was to try regardless of what others think, such as I can try my best to make specific plates for people but the thought of trying, putting in the time and effort is what really matters hopefully making the food I make very delicious.

Section 3b: OVERALL REFLECTION on this PROJECT AND GRADE

Discussing about my skills and interests helped the people in class understand me and see what I find amusing saying a little bit about me but showing what I like. Sharing them wasn't hard I felt comfortable and safe with the class environment I was in since you professor S made everyone feel welcomed and understand each other. At first, I was a little worried because of how you said we must put all of our work into unit III which was one of the smallest units we've had so I didn't think we had enough time to put everything together and set it up as we usually do at the end of every unit. But overall I really enjoyed the whole process I feel like I tackled all the tasks that were required for unit III except for contributing a lot into the "Our Class Diary" I didn't participate and put in a lot of information every day since I've been trying to adjust to writing an entry for everyday but I usually try to avoid from the news since I've had family members that passed away and my mother doesn't like looking at the news much, so I respect it. I was always interested though in the zoom meetings and just writing about we which is one of my favorite topics to write about because no one really knows you like you know yourself. Then working in pairs and seeing what similarities you and your partner(s) had made it really fun to get to know each other. Things did develop for me as I had a greater understanding that it is good to update not only each other in the "Our Class Diary" but to everyone around us, this is the first time that a pandemic had arose drastically not only in New York but all around the world. The only struggle I had was keeping up with the class diary, but I think I succeed in most of the tasks given to me, trying to get straight to the point and elaborate with Jennifer during our pair work. I

feel like we should have been able to relate to each other or discuss about past experiences or future goals we may have similar interests in instead of just focusing on activity/hobby we do. All the work we've done thus far has worked for the most part I wouldn't really change much besides what I mentioned earlier because overall we got the work done and learned a lot about what we do and who our partners were. Relating each activity to what we do in one way or another. I also think I deserve a B+ or B as I received on my last unit III project since I have done all the work except participate in the class diary but most of the work I have done, I put in the effort to make it right, listening and following your directions and contributing a lot of my work to class.