

## **EDD 9100 & EDD 9100S Leadership Seminar and Simulation Reflections**

### **EDD 9100 Course Reflection**

This Leadership course was very insightful and the lessons I have learned will be applicable in the workplace. Through class discussions and online discussion I was able to talk about how leadership impacts an organization at every level. The course pushed me to use my analytical skills and really think about changes occurring in the community and in my organization. I learned that it is important to have leadership initiate and support change in an organization and how the decision making process has a huge impact on the overall success of any implementation.

The reading of leadership articles and books is a great idea and something that I will continue to do as I strive to continuously grow and personify traits of a great leader. The various lessons in management and leadership theories helped me gain perspective and knowledge of my own leadership style. I was also able to identify my strengths and weaknesses as a leader and understand that there are several opportunities to develop and improve in order to be an effective leader. I also learned that one has to understand a company's culture before being able to meet its needs.

Through the readings and discussions, this course has given me some fundamental knowledge on leadership and has shown me the value of using critical thinking skills when collaborating with colleagues. I truly enjoyed being able to attend the live class and meet the professor and some of my colleagues. This opportunity enhanced my experience in the simulation and allowed me to build friendships with a few of my classmates in the ITDE program. Making connections with the professor and colleagues opened a communication

channel that helped me collaborate better with some of my classmates and the professor in the virtual environment. I was also able to ask Dr. Ross a lot of questions that helped me understand better how to use the simulation in the EDD 9100S class.

**Assignment 1:**

This assignment required me to read two articles and complete a couple of assessments before beginning the written portion. I found the reading to be very interesting and thought provoking when comparing and contrasting the two leadership articles to my experience. I enjoyed taking the assessments and quizzes on my leadership, communication, ethical and personality style. The assignment made me more aware of who I am as a leader and the legacy I would like to leave behind. My greatest takeaway from this assignment was being able to identify my areas of strength and development as leader as well as having a plan to overcome future obstacles as a leader.

**Assignment 2:**

Assignment two was a practical assignment that I thought was fun to do with a classmate. We had to read a book on leadership, write a book report, and present a synopsis of the reading that included who and why someone should read the selected book. I learned that by including engaging and good questions on a book can be educational and at times more relatable than reading from only a textbook. Being able to work with a partner allowed me to share thoughts and discuss different points of views on the reading. I have learned that reading current leadership books can give a learner insight on new leadership approaches and is something that I can do to continue my professional development.

## **EDD 9100S Course Reflection**

The EDD 9100S course was the first time I had ever participated in a simulation course. I enjoyed the ability to problem solve through a virtual setting that mimicked a real city's operation. Being able to work collaboratively with a group to plan for the specific needs of a city and to problem solve different scenarios was energizing. From the beginning, our group created a strategic plan to successfully go through the simulation. We created a rotation schedule for each task and scheduled set dates and times to meet; this was done to avoid confusion and create a natural process.

The EDD9100 seminar course made me have a good understanding of the expectations and requirements in the simulation. Engaging in discussions on possible real life scenarios and solutions made me practice my leadership skills in the group setting. The chance to take a leadership role and take risks that one would normally not take due to fear or high possibility of failure was the best part of the simulation. We each took turns being the representative in City Council and it was a great experience in leadership and having to stand your ground on what you believe and learning to compromise where needed. Each scenario provided me with an opportunity to look at various solutions and made me realize that at times no matter the solution, something has to give. I learned that a wise leader needs to listen to all the issues and resolutions, but select the one that will have the best overall impact to a situation.

My overall experience in the simulation was good and I appreciate having a different type of virtual class. I was able to identify a lot of the group needs and communication styles to be similar to that of my workplace and saw that having some structure and over communication is necessary for success. I was also able to learn that even though I know about working in teams

and think I have good communication, every team is different and I need to be ready to try and understand different personalities and styles every time I work with different people.

### **Assignment 1: Sector Reflection (Group Paper)**

The sector reflection paper was a collaborative assignment with classmates from a virtual leadership simulation. As a group we divided the work equally and one of our team members volunteered to put the paper together. I learned that it doesn't matter whether we are in school or at the office; working with people is a challenge in itself. Another lesson learned from this assignment is that someone always needs to take a leadership role in order to move a project along. In a healthy group, that leadership role is equally distributed among team members. Unfortunately my group only had a few leaders and initiators which made the workload unbalanced. This experience has shown me that I need to be prepared to face challenges when working in groups and to look for opportunities to learn and collaborate with others.

### **Assignment 2: City Council Representative Power Point Presentation**

The PowerPoint presentation was another opportunity for me to collaborate with different peers in this course. The assignment put one member from each sector together to create a presentation demonstrating each sector's concerns, issues and budgetary requirements for the entire city of Centerville. This gave me the opportunity to create a visually appealing presentation, collaboratively make decisions with my peers, and a chance for me to practice my communication and negotiation skills in a virtual environment. Being able to be in the city council allowed to see the importance of communication and negotiation when several people are trying to do what they think is best.

### **Assignment 3: Synthesis paper**

Writing the synthesis paper made me analyze and really take a look at what I had learned in my experience with the simulation. It made me think about how the simulation mirrored real life experiences in many aspects. I was able identify commonalities such as communication, collaboration efforts, conflict and resolution strategies that exist and take place in the workplace. This class experience has shown me the importance of being a clear communicator and creating a structure when working in teams, especially when physically separated. I have also learned that setting expectations from all team members should be done in the beginning in order to create a good foundation and or culture for a group.