Transformative Learning and Adult Education

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Professor

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**Assignment #4 – Course Learning Journal**

The journal is a written reflection of your learning journey while working in each course. The Learning Journal integrates the essential elements of the course within your professional field of interest. The objective of the course journal is to produce a degree of acculturation, integrating new ideas into your existing knowledge of each course. This is also an opportunity to communicate with your professor insights gained as a result of the course. **The course learning journal should be 3-5 pages** in length and should include the following sections:

1. **Introduction** – Summarize the intent of the course, how it fits into the graduate program as a whole, and the relevance of its position in the curricular sequence.
2. **Personal Growth** - Describe your personal growth–*how the course stretched or challenged you*– and your progress in mastery of course content and skills during the week and through subsequent readings – *what new insights or skills you gained.*
3. **Reflective Entry** - Add a reflective entry that describes the contextualization (or *adaptation and relevant application*) of new learning in your professional field. What questions or concerns have surfaced about your professional field as a result of your study?
4. **Conclusion** – Evaluate the effectiveness of the course in meeting your professional, religious, and educational goals.

**Introduction**

Transformative Learning and Adult Education is a necessary course in the graduate program at any graduate school. It tells of the principles of adult andragogy and is a motivator of life-long learning. I love that it encourages and inspires adults to transformation and mind renewal, which is a biblical mandate for Christian believers. Mezirow’s Transformative Learning Theory is a favorite of mine during this course. It speaks of critical reflection, a major component of self-care and fundamental to growth both spiritually, academically, and emotionally. As I have been at OGS as a DSL student for over a year, I do wish this course had been in my first Core. However, its relevance to me at this time in my journey is timely, contextually, and experientially.

As I consider my own philosophy of education, I am satisfied that this course brings to light what I have been thinking all along. To learn further, we all must critically reflect and re-evaluate our own personal goals from time to time and understand this is a process. As we are exposed to community around us, we are evaluating continuously our worldview. To have a proper view of our Father, God, we must take everything we learn through proper views of community including church, school, family, friends, and academics, and He will show us all things about Himself, if we but look to Him through these avenues.

**Personal Growth**

I was happily stretched during this course. I love to critically think, engage Jesus Christ and others, question and reflect. When I first saw the opportunity to expound critically in reflection, I was ecstatic! To know that this does begin with self-care, as Dr. Davis said to me was a new thought. How will I ever grow spiritually, emotionally, and academically, if I do not take the time to make sure I personally am caring for myself?

I’m very busy as a wife, mom and grandmom, and school administrator, and even in my biblical studies with Jesus Christ, I’m many times pay too much attention to the clock. But to realize that as an adult, I need to ponder and meditate on His word without having an agenda is a good new thing. Now, as I read, meditate, and listen, I add quiet background instrumental music. This is a new concept which was told me by a peer, and it makes adult learning environment new again for me. Music is a wonderful gift from God. Since I am a bit ADD, it has added a new dimension to my reflection each day. I’m finding I am enjoying my Bible studies more lately. And my meditation flows through my self-care during the day as I am at school. It’s amazing how the Spirit of Jesus speaks to us in different ways as we grow and mature in Him. I know I have a long way to go in this, but I’m joyful as He is with me as my Master teacher. Again, this course has been a wonderful blessing at this point in my personal life and will continue to be transformational as He renews my mind each day.

**Reflective Entry**

I believe the best ways of teaching is by mentoring as by personal example. I have the honor of encouraging our schoolteachers, students, and families toward Jesus Christ through academics every day. One of best tools I’ve learned through this course is to help others go beyond their personal growth areas where they seem stuck in the rut of busyness. I understand that. I’ve been there and it remains a battle to overcome. Many of the adults I have the privilege to speak with don’t understand the better impact they can have on society if they will get over fears about adult learning and continued development. They only respond to this learning as an “have to” to keep my license current. It can be intrinsic and brings self-satisfaction.

As I observe and evaluate teachers this month, I plan on adding personal and professional goals setting for each teacher during our follow-up session. As a Christian school, it is important that teachers and staff have Spiritual goals, as well, as professional goals. I will talk with them about critical reflection as adult learners and the joy it gives. Naturally, I will be listening more as I ask deeper questions of care and concern to them. Challenging them to continue their education as adult learners through biblical worldview study is very important. Teachers, too, need to understand their impact as social leaders.

**Conclusion**

Transformative Learning and Adult Education solidified thoughts I had but did not have the knowledge from credible scholars before me until taking this course. Through appropriate readings, videos and discussions with professors and peers, I am prepared to be a better encourager of adult learning. It’s about mind renewal to transformation to understand others and impact the world for Christ. Through critical thinking and reflection, we are able to take our knowledge to understanding and application by drawing connections in which to understand others around us.

Adults can be confident that through their own background and experience they are able to dialogue with others and help shape their desire to be transformative learners. Listening is key. What do they know? Why do they know it? Why is it important to know? These are foundational questions for adults with whom we have contact and at the right time. But will we allow the Spirit of Christ in us to motivate other adults to think and learn differently as we are learning?