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COM 803-12: Hermeneutics and Communication

Omega Graduate School

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Assignment #1 – Core Essential Elements

1. Write a three-paragraph essay responding to the following question:

When have you noticed your pre-judgments influencing your interpretations? How have you

experienced a "fusion of horizons" in your learning experiences?

**Influence of Pre-Judgments and Fusion of Horizon in Learning Experiences**

Prejudgments are ingrained in human nature and can have a substantial influence on how we view diverse events, including how we interpret information. According to Corcoran and Cook (2023), it is a process by which prior ideas, experiences, or prejudices impact how individuals perceive and comprehend information. In contrast, the term "fusion of horizons" refers to the act of merging several perspectives and experiences to generate new, deeper knowledge (Clark, 2018). When applying this concept, we are open to other points of view and able to integrate numerous ideas to increase our understanding. In this essay, I explore situations in which pre-judgments influenced my interpretation. In addition, I deliberate on the concept of "fusion of horizons" in my learning experiences.

In my personal experience, I have encountered multiple occasions when my preconceived notions have impacted my view of events. One such instance occurred during a group assignment in college. I had preconceived views about a team member based on their looks and imagined they wouldn't contribute anything. As a result, I mistakenly overlooked their suggestions and contributions throughout our brainstorming sessions. This pre-judgment shackled productive collaboration, consequently limiting the possibility of resourceful engagement. Evaluating such an occurrence, I come to terms with the significance of avoiding prejudgment to ensure a fair and unbiased interpretation. Experiencing a "fusion of horizons" in my learning experience has been transformational. One incident occurred during a study abroad program in a culturally different region. Interacting with individuals from various backgrounds challenged my preconceptions and broadened my knowledge of the world. In addition, participating in debates and sharing ideas with others who had opposing views helped me acquire a more sophisticated perspective. This fusion of horizons not only extended my knowledge but also promoted empathy and understanding for different points of view, therefore improving my entire educational experience.

Finally, preconceived notions can have a considerable impact on how we understand things, frequently leading to skewed and limited viewpoints. However, with self-reflection and open-mindedness, we may confront these preconceived beliefs and aim for more equitable readings. Furthermore, encountering a fusion of horizons in our learning journeys may be transformational, allowing us to accept different ideas and widen our vision of the world. By actively participating in this process, we may improve our learning outcomes and become more sympathetic.

# Works Cited

Clark, J. (2018). Philosophy, understanding and the consultation: a fusion of horizons. *British Journal of General Practice*, 58-60. doi:10.3399/bjgp08X263929

Corcoran, L., & Cook, K. (2023). The philosophy of Hans‐Georg Gadamer: An exemplar of the complicated relationship between philosophy and nursing practice. *Nursing Inquiry, 16*(2), e12509. doi:10.1111/nin.12509