Transforming People Problems

Quinton Egson

Omega Graduate School

October 5, 2024

Professor

Dr. Brenda Davis

**Assignment #4 – Course Learning Journal**

The journal is a written reflection of your learning journey while working on 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:**

The course was **designed** to provide a comprehensive understanding of sociology, focusing on leadership, motivation, communication, conflict resolution, and interdisciplinary perspectives on human behavior, either of which could be a course of their own. What I found fascinating is that the course essential elements fit together like a well-designed puzzle. Although my experience and education weigh heavily on the leadership side, being a mediator has called me to do some work in conflict resolution, which I find rewarding as well. Motivating change is a quality that all leaders should lean into, and learning about human behavior is essential to building a more perfect union. The course has been most enjoyable; as I told my wife, “I really enjoyed writing my essay.” Dr. Davis, during one of our conversations you mentioned that we should enjoy writing our assignment papers, and at the time I was unsure if I agreed with your comment, after all, there is a level of pressure associated with completing a course assignment. During my formative years, my teachers always told me that reading and writing work hand and hand. They would say things such as, if you are a good reader than you can be a good writer, if you enjoy reading then you will enjoy writing. And although I am an avid reader oftentimes reading multiple publications, writing is another ballgame; however, I forgot how much I enjoy writing. This program has reminded me, and your comments resonated with me. I have always said to my team, “Leaders are readers, and well-written communications are essential.”

The course **fits** well in the program as an essential part of the Doctorate Social Leadership (DSL) program because the essential elements and other assignments help move the needle in developing a deeper understanding of sociology and leadership. Furthermore, the **relevance of its position** in the curricular sequence as it pertains to the entire program is spot on. It was both demanding and inspiring, which conveys the message that although it may be challenging, the rewards are worth the effort.

**Personal Growth:**

To begin with, doing research and authoring an essay on nonprofit impact, sustainability, and leadership was beyond rewarding. I frequently got lost in the research. Working in this vital field of nonprofit management for more than 4 decades has afforded me some experiences that many have not had the opportunity to have. I know firsthand how important our work and the work of other nonprofits (including churches) is, and I am too familiar with the people's view that those who work for nonprofits should work longer and harder while receiving less pay if any, pay at all. Nonprofits are a leading economic driving force that works to bring a better quality of life and even a means of survival for some. That being said, I learned that resource development and other things are essential to nonprofit growth and or sustainability (including churches). However, the common denominator for the success of nonprofit businesses weighs heavily on leadership.

Also, as has proven customary for all courses I have taken at Omega Graduate School (OGS), this course enlarged my knowledge base by requiring me to study the course essential elements.

Although I may have higher levels of interest regarding certain course essential elements. As evidenced in my developmental readings, I researched all four fundamental elements. I also analyzed and contextualized comments to better understand each subject matter.

Leaders are readers and lifelong learners. During this session, I learned how important leadership is to the viability of nonprofit organizations and that the world needs to know the essential part nonprofit organizations/ businesses have played in developing and sustaining our society.

**Reflective Entry:**

This course resonates with me on a profound personal and professional level. I have benefited from nonprofit services in a myriad of ways. No one is an island, and three things molded me into the person I am today: God (church), The Boys and Girls Club, a nonprofit organization, and my mother, who introduced me to them both.

During my studies, I was reminded of how important the church is to society and other nonprofits as well. Furthermore, I realized that nonprofits are a major economic driving force that helps people by providing much-needed services for little or no cost and employing millions of people. According to the United States Bureau of Labor, nonprofits account for 12.3 million jobs and over 10% of private sector employment.

Finally, I will continue to research the importance of nonprofits and the need for influential nonprofit leaders and leadership so that they can survive and thrive.

**Conclusion:**

As inferred in earlier reading, the program met my overall goals/expectations on a high-level basis, particularly regarding **educational objectives**. The material was stretching enough while not being overwhelming. That good balance is encouraging as opposed to being discouraging. As a professional in a good position, embarking on a discouraging program is not worth my time, money, or effort! Furthermore, I like the overall structure and consistency of the courses. The material was great, and the essential elements caused me to research subjects that stretched my bandwidth to learn and grow. The developmental readings, which I used to dread but now look forward to, are the most essential piece of the program. Again, I enjoyed researching and drafting my essay; in fact, my goal is to do more to develop a user-friendly framework to increase nonprofit growth and sustainability.

In terms of **professional** goals. Participating in this course set me on the path to helping my organization, my church, and other nonprofits reach their full potential by developing tools (sharing best practices) that are user friendly so that anyone can utilize the framework to enhance their organization.

Regarding meeting my **religious goals**, the staff's professionalism, kindness, and moral astuteness speak for themselves. People can profess to be anything, but their actions tell who they are.

I feel honored and blessed to be a part of the OGS family. Although I work full-time and am a dad and husband, the sacrifice required to attend this program is well worth it!

Finally, Leadership as defined in a book titled *Martin Luther King, Jr. On Leadership*, authored by Donald T. Phillips reads as follows, leadership is: “Is leaders acting – as well as caring, inspiring, and persuading others to act – for certain shared goals that represent the value – the wants and needs, the aspirations, and expectations – of themselves and the peoples they represent. And the genius leadership lies in how leaders care about, visualize, and act on their own and their followers’ values and motivations.” Leaders and constructive leadership are essential to building a vibrant, sustainable society that we all can be proud to call home, and OGS is building future influential leaders!