Transforming People Problems

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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**

Transforming People Problems is an integral philosophical and sociological course at OGS. Researching from videos, books, and articles that were encouraged and discussed during the course were of upmost importance to my study as a life-long student scholar practioner and administrator of a Christian school. It was imperative to be challenged through learning leadership styles, particularly transactional and transformational leadership, by knowing identity, purpose, and Christian calling. Understanding and using what was taught in communication and conflict resolution is pertinent and valuable information for a school principal who works with staff, families, and students every day. The more we know ourselves and our own personalities and communication styles, the better we can listen to others to encourage and influence them. Those who are in leadership positions, like me, have gained more learning and abilities to help constituents in the workplace through this course.

As a graduate student, the course was introduced and taught in Core 3 by Dr. Davis and at a perfect time for me. It is a very relevant course at this time for me and will be explained more in my reflective entry to follow in this paper. Once again, I am so appreciative for the wisdom of OGS faculty and staff in placing this course at just the right time and place, in this particular curricular sequence. Observing the curricular flow of all the philosophical courses from the first, Orthodoxy and Orthopraxis, to being equipped in helping people to be transformed in and through their problems in this course, I am very thankful for the wisdom in which the classes are ordered. To change the world and become a research sociologist, it is important to see Jesus Christ and His working in my personal life through my OGS studies.

**Personal Growth**

As in all OGS courses, this one challenged me to step out in a new way as an administrator. One who listens more in conflict resolution, especially to improve my professional sphere of influence. I do not need to have all the answers, but I need to be listening more and asking questions and showing my people where to look for the answers. In Christian school, performance and appearance seem the most essential. How is it best to ask our staff what their personal goals are? There needs to be a clear difference in their personal goals along with the school’s goals. To love God, love learning, and love others, is our school’s vision statement. Do we help our constituents keep the main thing, the main thing? More examination of building trust in our school is essential. Through the encouragement of the materials and resources of this course, I am determined, although challenged, to further analyze people problems and be proactive with them for their spiritual identity, well-being and personal performance, in the areas in which they work at the school, as well as, working with students to success in education, and parents in parenting this generation.

**Reflective Entry**

My reflective experience through the past few weeks of this course is a new challenge for me, has caused me to ask many questions about what I am doing now, and pray through each day more specifically about living in the moment to be a positive model of renewal of mind to transformational change. Because of the newness of this school year, along with the obstacles that needed to be overcome in the last two years of almost closing the school, I am using this year to help calm, encourage, and proclaim the hope of Jesus Christ, to staff and families of the school.

I am one of the principal administrators of 90 school personnel and 538 students in the school. I love what I do. I have, however, moved into this new position at the former campus as we brought our 7th-8th grade back to this campus for this year (I was the only principal last year with 7-8 grades). Our school has right-sized the building in order for us all to be together in one campus this year. Although I am highly respected at the new campus, staff and families are accustomed to only having one principal and administrator. It is hard for me to acknowledge that they prefer communicating with him than with me.

The first quarter of the school year will be over at the end of next week, and we both have mentioned that we want to talk with each other as to how things are progressing. At this point, I am going to ask questions of him to transform conflicts into encouraging opportunities for growth, both personally and organizationally. I do see areas in which our school can reach families, especially multinational ones, who are not currently being an integral part of our school. I am praying he will be amenable to the research and suggestions I have that will be advantageous to the school culture.

**Conclusion**

I enjoy the outcomes of learning new material, critically thinking and praying about what it is that inspires new personal thinking and behaviors through the process of each OGS course. Transforming People Problems has positively affected my goals, religiously, by seeking to understand more of the ways in which Jesus Christ motivated transformation in stories, parables and loving on people. I enjoy reading scripture as I think through how He must be thinking as He communicates with others and how He will use me through each day, moment by moment. The course has also affected me professionally as my job as an administrator is one of people person skills, showing others the light of Jesus through encouraging strong academic success to life-long learning. And the effects of this course through my educational goals are meaningful as I daily personally pursue working with people to give them hope in Jesus for successful living in every challenge.