CTZN Honors 410 Final

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As a liberal studies major, the Civitae core curriculum was overshadowed by the diverse liberal studies courses. There is, however, exceptions to the statement above: my two citizen courses, the honors biology for the teaching profession class (BIO 114), American Sign Language classes, public speaking, project success (EDUC 205), honors history of faith (HIST 150), and my introduction to political science class heavily attributed to my growth in becoming a citizen leader and a better person.

I have learned to be more patient and understanding of others. I was in several group situations which required teamwork: group projects in BIO 114, project success, and in several of my special education classes. I learned that everyone has their own circumstances, and it is better to try to understand and support rather than attack those who seem to be falling behind in their work. During the main group project in EDUC 205, two of my classmates appeared to not be motivated to work. While one student was unmotivated an unwilling to cooperate, the other student told us of her circumstance, and we became more accepting and shared her workload. I learned to me more accepting and not to condemn others, especially on subjects I do not have complete understanding on.

I have become more open to new ideas and learned to recognize and reduce my own biases in my political science and history of faith class. In my political science class, I realized that most issues are not so black and white. I learned that it is important to first understand an issue from all sides and try to think of the pros and cons that would occur for each possible outcome. I practiced that skill as I read several articles and books in my political science and history of faith class. By looking at different points of view in the assignments for those classes, I was able to use that skill when working with others and trying to resolve conflicts.

I developed leadership skills prior to Longwood University when I was Boy Scout. Those skills, combined with my leadership in Alpha Phi Omega and lessons learned from my LU courses, vastly improved my leadership ability. I was used to taking the leadership role in several group projects because of my familiarity of understanding the logistics of things, but my leadership type started to change. I noticed that others desired to lead and that it may be more beneficial if they did to preserve the group dynamics. I learned that in my CTZN 410 and in a couple of my special education classes where my partner would assign tasks to the group members. I began to work with the leader of the groups which I was apart of and focus more on holding the group together. If our project began to go south, I would step in and fill the leadership role and help where I could. I practiced that in my project success class where the original leader was not certain on what steps needed to be taken and in what order, so I first gave suggestions and was later accepted as the group leader. My leadership style changed from a ‘know it all’ to a servant leader, one who would lead by working along with others and demonstrated what needed to be done.

Through my classes and experiences at Longwood University, I became a better person and grew my leadership abilities. I learned to delay judgement, strive to understand complex situations, and the citizen leadership style which aligned with my personality and strengths. I learned these facts about myself though some of the Civitae classes, but most of my newfound knowledge was obtained through the classes that provided opportunities for group interactions.