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Module Title: Community Engagement
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Introduction

Encouraged by my husband, I decided to enrol in university, I knew within myself that it won't be easy considering that I had to learn in a language that I don't master perfectly, however, I made this step. Considering that I have to raise two children and continue my job part-time, I considered that Trinity Saint David University as being the best option, especially because it had accounting, a subject that I enjoy. With great emotions, I had the interview and to my surprise, I was accepted. I admit that I had great emotions at the interview, I found it easier to write than to answer questions, I simply freeze when I have to speak in front of many people. I have all the words on me but I just can't open my mouth to speak. Finally, the first day of school came, I had a good first impression, I met my colleagues, majority of them being Romanians like me, I was happy to find this, but I was also sad because I would have preferred to have colleagues from other countries, that way I would have been obligated to speak English, which would have helped me a lot perfecting my speaking.

Content

The first two hours of the day, accounting fundamentals have passed easily, some basic notions, examples and the lessons have flown by. In the second part of the day I had 4 hours of Academic Skills, 4 hours of continuous teaching, many new words, so many questions for which I was just thinking about the answer and a part of my colleagues were

already answering, I panicked, I said no, I can not cope, I won't be able to pass the exams, too much information in a single day, too much stress, I did not think I would continue, but I tried. The second day of University was much harder than the first day, other new information, other new words I did not know, I had in my book a lot of words that I wanted to translate once I got home, and find out what they meant. I finished the day with a massive headache and being very disappointed. Once I got home, my husband asked me how it went but I did not have the courage to admit the feelings that I had.

The second week. Although in the first week I found Accounting Fundamentals easy, in the second week things got trickier, I did not understand anything that day, I tried to concentrate to at least understand what the teacher was saying and get an idea of what he was teaching. In the class it was noisy, students that were asking questions, some that made sense and some that had nothing to do with what the teacher just taught, which made me even more confused, I didn't know who understood wrong, me or my colleagues. The same stress continued into the next hours, same volume of information, new words that I did not know, noisy colleagues and the teacher who already started talking about exams, 2 exams more exactly, one of which we will have to talk in front of the class, here I panicked, in my mind, I said no, I will never be able to do this, I have to stop here.

I got home extremely disappointed. Discussing with my husband during dinner, I told him that I can not cope and I decided to give up, following in next day to go to school and announce my withdrawal. My husband didn't agree, he advised me to wait at least until the first set of exams, he told me that he believed in me and knows that I am capable to pass all my exams and finish what I have started. I thought about his words and what I should do the whole night, and I had finally decided to go ahead and try to get to the end of what I've started.

The Third Week

I missed school in the third week due to a family wedding for which I have reserved the tickets since the beginning of summer when I wasn't yet registered for University. This period really helped me, having more free time I took the book with unknown words and I started to translate them, to my surprise, not all of them were new to me, but probably because of all the stress, my mind refused to recognise them. I had more spare time to read over the modules and look over the lessons I missed and I determined that it wasn't as hard as I thought it was in the beginning.

The fourth week went much better, I forced myself to stay calm, to listen carefully, to take notes on the parts that I didn't get so well and slowly I started to feel more comfortable. This has made me realise that in order to feel comfortable I had to go out of my comfort zone just as Brian Tracy said that "You can only grow if you are willing to feel awkward and uncomfortable when you try something new." I started reading more at home, on the train while commuting to school and even at work when I had a spare moment. The only stress remaining was to respond to questions in class, despite sometimes having the answer, I didn't have the courage to put my hand up to answer, and I hope that I will be able to solve this problem too.

The following couple of weeks went much better than I expected. We chose the subjects for the written assessment, I found the first one that I worked on quite easy, I had to talk about Climate Change, how does it affect fish, fisheries and aquaculture, how does it affect infrastructure and buildings. I read a lot about this subject and I discovered some very interesting things that I didn't know about, and things that I haven't given importance to until then. The subject of the second written assessment was the choice of a company and its description- the sector in which it operates, the structure, the size etc. The hardest part was including a PESTLE analysis; it was the first time when I heard about this analyse. I searched a lot of information about this analyse and what criteria it uses, eventually I did it, it's left to see how well I did it. Another problem that came through was when I had to choose a role from the company and talk about its importance in the organisation and what abilities were needed to work. I don't work in the company chosen, the reason why I had to search a lot of information to be able to describe the company correctly and the chosen role. If so far everything has been relatively easy, the part that I was afraid of begins just now. With the chosen role of the company, we had to present a problem that we might face and how we would have solved it. And now begins another stress and other fears, I couldn't imagine how I would speak in front of the class.

Week Six was the week in which the role play was supposed to take place, but from diverse reasons, it was rescheduled for week 9. At that moment this news came as a relief. However, it wasn't like that, I had another week in which to think if I would cope or not with this new challenge. I had a plan on paper, 5 minutes in which I had to play a role in front of the class; I read and reread that paper countless times, I timed the whole thing, sometimes being more than 5 minutes, sometimes less. I made my script as I was going to present it, now I had to move left and right to present my role and the role of the unsatisfied client. (Mind Tools, 2019) My colleagues' reaction worried me the most, the thought of everyone having their eyes fixed at me was panicking me a lot. In the morning, before the role play, I decided to make a moustache so that way I didn't have to move left and right to interpret the two roles.

Week Nine- The role play.

Description

For my play-role, I chose the role of a Foreman in the company Veolia, in a department for managing waste. My role was to solve a difficult problem with an unsatisfied client. Despite reading and rereading the role that I prepared for a week, and which I knew from the top of my head, due to fear of forgetting anything in the last moment I decided to read it from the paper, aware of the fact that I will be downgraded by this.

Feelings

I have great emotions, even though I had the paper in front of me, I had the impression that I can not breathe anymore and I had to stop and inhale deeply to be able to continue. (Christine Grové, 2016) I was upset with myself due to my inability to talking in front of the class.

Evaluation

I managed to read everything that I wrote until the end. A good thing as I thought I would not be able to finish everything due to high anxiety. At that moment I realised that I had made a good decision taking the paper with me because after the first mistake I would have frozen and not know how to continue.

Analysis

Despite my partner giving me good feedback, I don't think it was on merit. (Jeanne Zornes, 2018) In my opinion, I should not have read the role play from the paper. This is because I read it too quickly, making mistakes and not having the capacity to correct the mistakes, I made myself hard to understand and I did not include a conclusion to my role play.

LCBB 4002 Community Engagement
Peer Evaluation Role Play Feedback Form

Name of Presenter *IRINA PRECUPET* Date *11.12.2019*

Activity: *FOREMAN ROLEPLAY*

	Poor	OK	Good	Excellent
Introduction (Explanation)				✓
Presentation (practical demonstration)				✓
Conclusion (how well can you carry out the activity?)				✓

Any other comments

Good interpretation

The only negative thing about the role play it was that she was read from the paper work.

Signed: *Poy* Date: *11.12.2019*

Feedback from Teodor Pascu

Conclusion

After finishing the role play, when the emotions have dissipated, listening to my colleagues I realised that all of them have had great emotions, including those who answered during the lessons during the whole semester.

Action Plan

It was the first time when I spoke in front of the class, it wasn't easy because of the emotions, in the future, I will try to control my emotions better, and do not hurry to finish but to make it clear in a way so that everything could understand what I say, to make eye contact with my colleagues when I speak and to not read the work from papers. I found out that if you want to get better at public speaking you must guide yourself after this quota "The only way to learn to speak is to speak and speak, and speak and speak, and speak and speak" -Elbert Hubbard.

Overall Conclusion

The first semester has finished. The beginning was hard but gradually I've learned a lot of things including how to handle my emotions. I am happy that I haven't given up after the first deadlock and I moved forward. It wasn't easy, besides University I have to go to work and to take care of two naughty children. I am waiting for the results to my exams and I hope they are good and in the future, I am sure that there would be even better results.

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