**Colleague Matthew Post to Week 6 Discussion 1**

**Introduction**

        This discussion will focus on the types of training and education I have received in the workplace. It will discuss the way life experiences affected learning as well as life events that influenced my beliefs and how I assert myself in the learning process. It will discuss things that I’ve done differently after past education learning experiences. It will wrap up with how I see myself as a lifelong learner.

**Types of Training and Education in the Workplace**

            In the 27 years that I was in the Milwaukee Police Department, it was a training intensive environment, where there are state-mandated yearly training throughout the year in addition to opportunities for specialized training. It begins with an 800-hour police academy and continues from there. In total, I have 3693 total hours of police training. It breaks down as follows: four courses and 424 in polygraph training, five courses and 112 hours in homicide/death investigation training, four courses, and 119 hours in crisis/hostage negotiation training, 12 courses and 281 hours in interviews and interrogations, 17 courses, and 291 hours in counterdrug/counter-gang investigations, nine courses and 275 hours in fire/arson investigations, and nine hours and 2172 in other investigation and law enforcement courses.

**Things Done Different from Past Education Learning Experiences**

            There have been so many things I have done differently because of past education and learning experiences. I can give you one specific example of something. When I was a patrol officer, I took the John E. Reid Course in interviewing and interrogation and the advanced course from Reid in the same. Prior to that, I did not really understand the right way to interview people or interrogate suspects. This is a course geared towards investigators who do more interviews and interrogations than patrol officers do. It immediately changed how I talked to people and the techniques I used to get them to tell me what I wanted to know. A couple of years later I was promoted to detective. Much of your job involves interrogating suspects. I was so successful right off the bat and even more skilled than many of the people that I was working with because if my use of the Reid Technique. My superiors quickly noticed and were very impressed. Another example is the years of education in Spanish. After that, I was able to work in the Hispanic community and speak to people that did not speak English.

**How Life Experiences Affected Learning**

A police officer or detective in a major city is exposed to so many situations, many of them horrible and tragic, that in a few years your average police officers see more than the average person in a lifetime. Because of this, I believe it should be mandatory for college students to ride along in a police car for the night ever night for a few weeks or a semester. It would change their entire perspective on life. If people did this, I can promise you they would not be out protesting the police anymore. My 27 years of experience in the police force have augmented my learning in school and training. I have been able to relate the education and/or training to real-life situations, where it would have been helpful. Not everyone is able to translate their education over into their work, but for those that can, they really stand out from the rest. There is a great difference in experience plus education and training, versus a person that is purely an academic, always been in an academic setting and is unable to use their knowledge in the real world. 

**Events in Life that Influenced My Beliefs, Asserting Myself in the Learning Process**

That question is a very profound thing to think about. There are many events that have influenced my beliefs and how I assert myself in the learning process. I have had some very terrible things happen to me in my life related to my career in law enforcement. I don’t want to go into detail about what happened. However, I can say these things have caused me to learn that everything that I believed in regarding the criminal justice system and the police force was a lie. The corrupt things I have seen are truly disgusting. They say one thing in public, but it is 100% different behind closed, such as them asking you to report police misconduct, versus what will happen to you if you do. The police sent me through a three-week class in leadership. They sent the entire 2000 member department. It was great training; it is just a shame they refuse to follow the training they are sending their people to. Many of the training courses I have been through have been very helpful both at work and in my personal life. The courses in crisis/hostage negotiations have been very helpful, where they taught us extensively about active listening skills that have been very helpful. Unfortunately, it many times is not what you know but who you know. The bad things I have been through have demonstrated to me even more how important education and training is. With how corrupt the world is, you have to be more than times 100 times better than the person you are competing with that has political or other connections in the workplace, so that it will be obvious what is going on if they don’t pick you.

**Myself as a Life-Long Learner**

            I have proven that I am in fact a lifelong learner. Since high school, I have almost continuously been either in school or some form of training. I finished my associate degree first and then was hired as a police officer. After getting used to the job, after a couple of years, I went back to school in the beginnings of adult education, where I finished my BS in criminal justice. As you saw above, I have been almost continuously taking one training course or another since then. I had tuition reimbursement through the police department, so I tried to use it up every year. I went back to school and took college-level Spanish classes for 3 years, where through that, high school and the independent study was able to become bilingual. I later tried to get my MA in clinical psychology, where I was able to finish the whole program, just not the thesis. I am not a quitter, so when there was an opportunity to finish it through Ashford with a scholarship, I jumped at it. When I am driving and on a daily basis I love to listen to audiobooks because I love the learning process.

**Conclusion**

            Upon reading all of this it should have been very clear that training and education have been a priority in my life. I have shown the ability to apply what I have learned in training and my education to the real world. Many of the experiences I have had both bad and good have made me even more committed to training and education.

**References**

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