

## Quality of a Renaissance Graduate: Strength

### Communication

The quality of a renaissance graduate that I find to be one of the most important is communication, because it the skills associated with this quality are required for everything you do in life. Good communication skills are needed in different situations throughout your life, like when you're talking to a teacher or your friends or even when you play a sport. In school students are challenged not only to formulate their own thoughts and ideas but to also express them to others and in their work. An individual who has mastered the skill of communication can talk to a group of people about a topic in a way that is clear and to the point, which makes it easy for others to understand what is being said. Having a mastery of communication will benefit you in your college experience because you will face bigger challenges academically and socially that will require you to express yourself to different groups of people in new and unfamiliar settings. Communication is an extremely important quality that must be developed and improved throughout your life. The three pieces of work that I am going to show are my biology project, geometry project and my English poem.

The first piece of work I have selected to demonstrate my ability to communicate effectively is a biology project that had the learning target *I can describe the processes of DNA replication, mitosis, meiosis, transcription and translation*. For this project I had to use a lot of communication skills in order to be successful. For example, I first had to talk to my teacher about what we learned in class in a way that proved I comprehended what we learned in class. Then I had to put that information into a booklet that I would use to teach a 7th grade math class what I had learned. In order to do this right, I first had to understand the process of mitosis, meiosis, transcription and translation for myself, which I did by studying my biology book and

class notes. It was important that I clearly understood what we learned because this is what I was going to teach my 7th grade student. For this project we had to draw pictures of the DNA process and how chromosomes and other things related are made. I spent at least a week, carefully drawing and writing the functions for each step. Once the booklet was complete I had to then create a learning plan that I would use to teach the kids about what I learned in class. I had to fill out a packet and write down the main points of what I wanted to get across. The next day the kids came to our class and we sat down and talked about our booklet as they took notes. When they went back to their class they had to take a test on what we had learned from us and both their grade and my own grade depended on their test score.

The grade I received for this project proves that I possess the ability to understand a topic thoroughly and can communicate my understanding of the information to others in a way that is enthusiastic, clear, and to the point. Some of the things that I did which helped me to communicate effectively were knowing my audience ahead of time, checking to see if they understood, and providing feedback and praise. The students were 7<sup>th</sup> graders so I not only had to think about what I wanted to say but how I wanted to say it. I had to find a way to simplify the information so that I could communicate with them in a way that they would understand. I found that checking from time to time to see if the student I was working with understood was very helpful to him and made him more comfortable to ask me questions about what I was teaching him. I also made sure to give the student positive feedback when he answered the questions I asked him, which gave him more confidence in what he was learning.

The next piece of work that I have selected to demonstrate my ability to communicate effectively is the geometry quilt project. This was a project that was challenging and took a lot of time to learn. Every day we went over a different piece of work that was going to be included in

our project. I had a difficult time figuring out and remembering all the different steps for the project so I would go to my teacher to ask him questions and talk about what I needed to do. Asking for help isn't always easy for me but I was able to work up the courage to approach him during and after class. Before we spoke, I made sure I had a good understanding of exactly what I was struggling with and the specific questions that I needed answers to. Doing this made better use of our time together and after we met I had a better understanding of what I needed to do.

For this project I had to create an image using geosketch. I had to make sure that our image did not have any lines of symmetry. I got to choose my own design and what I wanted to put on our poster. After that, I had to learn how to dilate or image in order to have a very important piece of work involved. After all the technical work was done, I had to color my image so that I had distinctive pieces of images. For the next step I had to color the images to create a scale that was basically a quadrant of a coordinate grid. We then had to rotate, translate, dilate and reflect our image in different varieties so that we can graph each image and show an equation to show what we were learning in class. I communicated my understanding of the concepts we learned in math class and my ability to do different geometrical tasks by completing all of the steps for this project. Once my poster was finally finished, I used my communication skills to explain the process I went through in order to finish the project. The feedback I received from people in my class proves that I was able to get my main points across to the group.

The third and final example that I am going to use to highlight my communication skills is the "I am" poem I wrote for English. For this assignment we were instructed to write about who you are. There were no specific guidelines or examples for us to follow in order to write it, all we were told is to write an "I am" poem. When I heard about this I was telling myself, "People are going to write how they are a student, or a son/daughter." I knew I didn't

want mine to be like anyone else's so I chose to write about my life. I wanted to talk about how much I have grown over the years and the things that shaped me into the person I am today. I went home and wrote down some ideas while I sat and thought about my life. I wrote a few drafts before I finally chose to write my reflection on the struggles I have faced which I believe have influenced what people seen me as. I never told anyone about the things I have been through or the challenges I have overcome, so opening up to my teachers, peers and even my mother was something entirely new to me. I wanted my poem have a rhyme scheme and I wanted my piece to be strong so I came up with the idea of writing about how coming from a young age to present day has taken a toll on my life.

While doing this writing assignment I learned that the ability to express your feelings towards other people, is an important part of communication. I did not let my fear of communicating my emotions to my peers, teachers and other adults stop me from letting my true feelings show. The writing in my poem was direct and straight forward but it was not just my words that made people understand, it was also my ability to tell my story through my body language and tone of voice. I am proud of myself for mastering this form of communication and being able to express to the world, my internal feelings which have been trapped inside of me for so long.

These three pieces of work demonstrate communication skills that are similar but also different in many ways. Using basic communication skills isn't a challenging task because it is almost an involuntary action that people have. The skills I talked about in this paper are more complex and not everyone finds these types of communication easy to master. I learned that I possess the ability to communicate effectively through my written work, class presentations and also interpersonally with my peers and teachers.