

Respond to the following prompts and write a course reflection of our time together. (20 pts) See grading rubric by clicking on the snowman in the upper right and then Show Rubric.

- What have you learned about being innovative and making changes?

I have learned that making changes is essential for every successful business to stay relevant in their field. If a company chooses to be stagnant, they will not be able to propel forward. Being innovative and thinking outside of the box is also extremely important for a business as well. Both concepts have had to happen rapidly in our economy since COVID has spread. Businesses were forced to allow their teams to work remotely while still being effective and working cohesively. They had to be innovative by having virtual meetings, allowing eSigning on official documents and in the classroom, teachers have had to create different ways to communicate and instruct their students on every level. While there was a time we were all on pause, we had to figure out how to move forward to continue to obtain our goals. Although the steps and the outcome are different for every business or organization, the importance of being innovative and making changes stays the same.

- What does strategy mean to you?

I believe that strategy means having a well constructed and thought out plan. Having an effective strategy will enable your business to plan, as well as you can, for external threats and adapt accordingly. It will also allow you to react opportunistically when possibilities to excel emerge for your organization. This term doesn't only apply to the professional realm. My husband and I have developed a strategy to eventually pay off our home, to buy a cabin and to retire by the time we're sixty years old. We're doing this by continuing our education, moving up in our fields and by making conscious efforts to save our money and make good investments. Just as with external threats in a business, things may come up in life (a vehicle needs repair, medical needs, world-wide pandemic) that we could never plan for. This circles back around to being innovative and making changes. As long as you have goals and you do your best to reach them, the journey along the way is just a part of the story.

- What have you been able to implement in your current life?

I have learned to be patient. Working in a group was challenging. I'm sure everyone can relate for different reasons. I have two small children, work full-time, go to school full-time and have a spouse in nursing school full-time. Needless to say, our lives are a balancing act. I will implement more patience with others because I don't know what others are balancing. I want to be more compassionate and also more vulnerable to

feedback. The feedback assignment midway through the session is a pretty genius assignment. It allowed my team to understand one another better and gauge how we were contributing to the team. I could see a pivot in the right direction from my teammates almost immediately after the feedback was posted. I've also had to work remotely for work which has also made me implement the group practices in my professional role. I will continue to show up on time, be reliable, work hard, communicate well and ask questions when it's necessary.

- What are you going to do differently tomorrow because of this class (besides sleep)?

I will respect the snowman and always refer to the rubric when completing assignments. I appreciate how we were graded in this course. It's taught me to always look at the specific instructions and to make sure I am following them when completing an assignment. After missing the mark a few times on our modules, we would cut and paste and include the instructions directly from the rubric to help with our individual sections. Having this as reference helped me do better on my portion of the assignment. I will also try to take it easy on myself. Meeting with Dr. B on Zoom during times I was stressed to do well made me realize I needed to relax and just follow the directions. I will take the advice he's given me throughout my OGL journey.