

Adult Education: A Career Choice

Tanya Demmel

AET/505

April 16, 2012

Siddeeqah Johnson

Adult Education: A Career Choice

Growing up teachers were heroes to me. I thought they knew everything because they could always answer my questions. They seemed to be able to open the doors to the world for me. I knew I too wanted to be an educator. Teaching children though did not grab my attention rather I always preferred assisting my peers. I tutored and mentored through high school and college and even found ways to share knowledge with fellow employees in my various jobs. Then I stumbled upon the opportunity to be a trainer for the company that am currently employed with where the entire job is sharing knowledge with others.

As a trainer in the corporate world I do get the opportunity to share what I know with my learners. I also get to learn with them and from them. Every day is a new experience for me because I never lead learners down the exact same path to the tools that they need for their job. I have learned that the dynamics of the group and uniqueness of each individual dictates how a class should be lead through the material that they need. Being able to meet each person's needs in the classroom environment is a challenge that I relish daily. I have to be able to think quickly and be creative in how I present the information to ensure that I'm reaching everyone. One class may need a description, the next will need a demonstration and another may need an analogy. Once I have made the connection, can see understanding in the learners face and hear them summarize what they have come to understand a feeling of fulfillment and pride overtakes me. This is why I want to learn more about adult education. Not only to share knowledge but to learn and be challenged as well.

I intend to focus on becoming a better trainer through my education. I hope to learn why some of the techniques I use in the classroom work while others don't. Currently I am able to transfer knowledge to my learners but I do not always understand how I did it. If I can get a

better understanding of how and why adults learn I will be able to utilize this information in my classroom. With knowledge and understanding of the adult learner I can be a more effective trainer. In time this information will also help me to advance in my career as a trainer. Someday I would like to train trainers and managers how to transfer knowledge to their learners and teams. I also would like to learn about what other opportunities exist for adult educators and believe this program will provide me with some insight from my peers as to other related fields that I had not yet even thought about.

As a trainer I have to be effective in transferring knowledge to my learners. Based on the success some of my learners have had in their new careers I know that I must be doing this to some degree. I have found ways to make information pertinent to my learners through connecting the information to their lives outside of work. Through stories I have been able to gain attention and find a common thread that they can identify with thus trusting me that the information they are learning has value for them. I have learned to use analogies and metaphors to help them identify with technical information so that it makes sense. By having them share stories and allowing them to relate to each other's personal experiences they can form a bond that will help them not only through the classroom setting but through their career as well. I work to create symbiotic relationships in the classroom by pairing individuals who learn from showing and telling to those who learn from hearing and doing.

When it comes to assisting others in learning something new I have found that some skills occur naturally to me. I have a deep reservoir of patience when it comes to helping people find their way along the path of learning. I also have a tendency to answer questions with questions to help lead a person to an answer rather than provide them with just the answer. My best characteristic though is that I learn from showing others. If I ever stop learning then it is

time for me to move on and to me helping adults learn will be a never ending learning experience.

I could say that a career in adult education would be a rewarding career because I will be able to help others and give back what has been given to me. That is part of it, but I gain from the experience a sense of fulfillment and the ever present opportunity to learn from others which is just as valuable.