

Reflection: Communication Skills as a TA

Learning how to communicate confidently was not something that came naturally to me, and it honestly took me all of my four years at Muhlenberg to feel confident standing in front of my peers or a professor and be able to present or talk in any way without showing my fear. Though it still is a bit nerve wracking getting up in front of a large audience and speaking, or even leading an entire class, I feel I have made strides to becoming a more confident communicator especially thanks to Dr. Michael London, one of my amazing business professors at Muhlenberg College. Because of his classes, I was forced to teach not just one but two classes in front of all of my peers, led by me, and assisted by him. These were not just your typical lecture-style presentations, however, Dr. London believes in a co-created classroom, which is extremely insightful if you take the time to look deeper into it, and each lesson in his class is truly meaningful. When we were given the assignment to be teacher's assistants to Dr. London, it was expected that we too create an environment which is engaging, welcoming and insightful. As you will see from my presentation, my given topic was Leading with Meaning, a very vulnerable topic. This took my means of communication to a whole new level, I brought in personal experiences that were emotional and close to my heart as I talked about family tragedy, and this involved me communicating with my classmates in a way that I had never had to before. Being that I am not friends with some of my classmates, and only had one conversation with some of them before, becoming this vulnerable could have been very awkward. Instead, thanks to our work towards a co-created classroom and connecting as one, I felt the support from my classmates as we communicated about those who inspired them and they talked about personal experiences of their own. I am very grateful for Dr. London and these amazing experiences, as they made me a better communicator, friend, and leader.