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My Service Learning Experience

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My Service Learning Experience

Abstract

This presentation produced by Destiny Brazeal, student at Virginia Commonwealth University, reflects on her experience in a service-learning course.

Keywords

reflection, student, student reflection, service-learning

Disciplines

Higher Education

My Service Learning Experience

By: Destiny Brazeal

Description of the Agency

- The Cultural Ambassador Program at VCU helps with the English Language Program (ELP)
- ELP helps students who are learning English as a second language to improve language skills, vocabulary, grammar, and simply communication
- ELP started in 2008 and has grown since then to include help from other programs

Population Served:

ELP classes consist of students from China, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Columbia



Role and Services Provided:

- My Role was a Cultural Ambassador
- Some of the services I provided were listening, small talk, help with vocabulary, correcting grammar, providing insight into American culture, and helping with their lessons

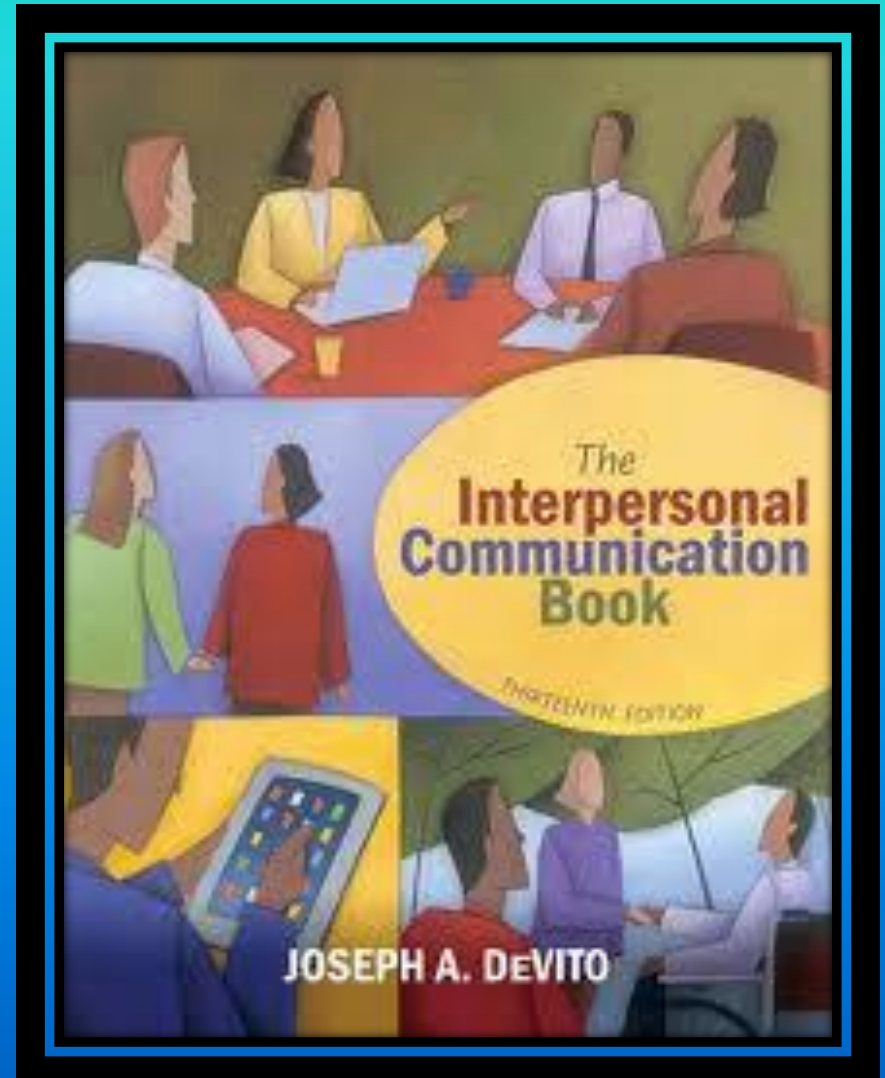
Positive Influences Made



- I built relationships and connections
- Helped students to learn English
- Taught them new vocabulary
- Explained American culture and traditions

Course Content Involved

- Active Listening
- Self awareness
- Acculturation
- Relationship building



The People I served



- I learned about different cultures and was able to try food from each culture
- I learned life stories
- I made friends

Personal Insights Gained

- Open-mindedness versus wariness
- Willingness to try new things
- Explaining through examples
- Accents can be difficult but I found that I can understand them pretty well

Future Actions

- I found that I really enjoy working with people from other cultures and backgrounds.
- I would be open to working with a similar population
- Keeping my options open, but if I had a chance to volunteer with those learning English again I would

How I was Affected

- It opened my mind to the struggles people of a different language face when coming to America
- It made me think about my step dad and wonder about what it was like for him when he first came to America
- I made real friendships that extend past the classroom

