

## **Personal Learning Experiences**

To complete this activity, think about 2-3 learning experiences, preferably: 1) a memory you recall from when you were learning something in elementary or middle school; 2) a memory from when you learned something in high school or college; and 3) an experience you had learning in a professional setting (first job, current career, etc.).

(You can use pseudonyms if you need to state specific names of schools or companies.)

**Answer the following questions for each of the three learning experiences listed above.**

**Question 1:** Describe a memory you recall from when you were learning something in elementary or middle school.

D.A.R.E is a program designed to provide students with the knowledge and tools needed to resist alcohol, drugs, and high-risk behaviors. As an adolescent in middle school, I recall Officer Higgins speaking amongst a large crowd of students in the auditorium. Officer Higgins identified his experience as a veteran police officer and saw potential in all the students. We learned four ways to refuse drug offers – Refuse, Explain, Avoid, and Leave: the message resonated and prepared students to act decisively and responsibly in difficult situations.

Officer Higgins presented the information in multiple sessions using videos, active discussions, and activities. Messages that resonated include the misuse of Opioids, Heroin, and Nicotine. Officer Higgins showed images of abusers that had black lungs, gum disease, and other illnesses. Reflecting on the experience, I did not understand the importance of the message at a young age. However, as my educational journey progressed, I experienced many references to drug paraphernalia in high school and college. Gaining knowledge on the topic as a young child was beneficial as I moved through the education system.

**Question 2:** Describe a memory you recall from when you were learning something in high school or college.

Advertising uses creative elements and storytelling to motivate consumers to purchase a product, or service. At the University of Central Florida (UCF), I took an advertising copywriting course. The course taught students the importance of writing for key audiences. I recall an Oyster Campaign requiring students to write a campaign to inform consumers of Oyster's health benefits despite their visual appeal.

Professor Jonas, a former copywriting professional that worked for major advertising agencies, taught the course. Jonas presented information to the class using PowerPoint presentations and visual imagery. After each class, students reflected on the information and worked on assignments that required a bias-free approach. Jonas inspired her students to take a creative approach that eliminated

hesitation. Student's campaign imagery explained multiple health benefits depicting oyster eaters as superhumans.

Each student was required to present his or her campaign to the class. Students were learning the information to create their campaign working for their employer in the future. The skills taught provided students with an understanding of advertising, allowing students to comprehend the multiple mediums used to gain consumers.

**Question 3:** Describe a memory you recall from when you were learning in a professional for formal (non-school) setting (first job, current career, etc.).

In the past few years, cyber-attacks on government installations have increased dramatically. Implementing cybersecurity is a top priority in protecting the government against cyber-attacks. I work for the U.S. Department of Defense. The Department of Defense (DOD) requires employees to attend a cybersecurity course that emphasizes the importance of protecting their data. My command's security team teaches the information via a virtual seminar during the pandemic. During the workshop, employees must actively participate in the comment thread and ask questions using a microphone.

Learning the information is critical to protecting sensitive material. Employees discovered the consequences of a data breach and the necessary steps to inform proper authorities of an incident. The advanced strategies used by criminals to conduct cybercrimes is discussed at length. The course pointed out that there have been many incidences of cyber-attacks resulting in a huge loss of money, private information, and intellectual property. The goal of the attack can include sabotaging and derailing of operations for some time. The course instructor kept repeating "Following Cybersecurity Procedures is Crucial".