

PEO 411 – LEADERSHIP DYNAMICS

Take-home Midterm Fall Term 2017

The purpose of this take-home examination is to provide you with the opportunity to explore and reinforce concepts, and behaviors critical to outdoor leadership. Please observe the following guidelines:

- This examination is worth 25% of your grade in the course, so craft detailed, well written responses.
- Responses must be word processed and presented in the same order as the questions on the exam.
- Submissions via Canvas or e-mail (as you have been providing for course assignments) only please.
- You will be graded for grammar and spelling. Poorly written responses will be downgraded accordingly.

1. (15 pts.) You are the head leader of an upcoming four-day backpacking trip into an area that has mobile phone reception. Your students are middle school in age and are attending a two-week summer camp. While most students are looking forward to the experience, one student is very resistant (on the point of defiance) to your decision to restrict the use of mobile phones, music players and any device that detracts from the opportunity to fully immerse oneself in the natural world and engage fully with group participants. You realize that it's not enough to simply state "No phones, that's the rule". You want buy in from this participant before the trip begins, so you search through your packet of leadership readings that you brought to camp with you and find the article '*Reboot or Die Trying*', from which you intend to present a case that will soften the student's stance about wanting to take his mobile phone on the trip.

a) One premise of this article is that there are detrimental effects of living a large chunk of each day connected to a mobile phone, computer etc. Support this premise by presenting concepts and research conducted on the influence of technology on the human psyche and human interaction. Be VERY detailed (I expect to read about some cool terms like intermittent reinforcement and continuous partial attention, etc.)

b) Another premise is that there are benefits of disconnecting from technology and immersing oneself in the natural world. Walking, for example, can have wonderful benefits not only on physical health, but mental health as well. Elaborate on the benefits of leaving technology on the doorstep while you feed the mind, body and spirit with a dose of exercise in the natural world.

2. (10 pts.) "We can define listening as an active, complex process that consists of being mindful, hearing, selecting and organizing information, interpreting communication, responding and remembering.... Listening is an active process, which means we have to exert effort to listen well." Wood, J.T. (2002)

Complete the '*Listening Habits and Patterns*' handout (available on the course website in the readings section), and then consider the following two questions. NOTE: submit your answers to the questions, not the assessment. Please be introspective and thoughtful.

- a) What ideas do you have about ways to improve YOUR listening effectiveness? What habit(s) would you most need to address?
- b) If you changed the way you listen, how would it make a difference? Elaborate.