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Timothy Rowan
COMM 1010-012
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Career Interview Preparation

Yeah! I finally thought of someone to interview. Next, the connection was made via telephone. After the greeting and informing the potential interviewee of my full intentions for the call, she agreed to meet with me for lunch.

On Tuesday, June 25, 2013 I will meet with Doreen Stout. Doreen has been a Registered Nurse at South Valley Health and Rehabilitation for the better part of twenty years. However, the reason for the interview is not necessarily career driven, but more circumstance driven.

Doreen Stout chose to go back to school while raising three boys and was very successful at both. Doreen is willing to share her experiences with balancing a school schedule and supporting young children. Furthermore, she may be able to enlighten me on what to expect in a new career as an older graduate.

Background

I am thirty-three years old, I have two boys that are nine and ten years old, and I am in my third year at Salt Lake Community College. I am currently studying Engineering design, drafting technology and structural engineering. Moreover, I have already completed a career exploration interview with a structural engineer. Which the interview saturated my perception negatively, forcing me to rethink my direction. However, my Engineering professor at the time Vinoo Kamdar was kind enough to help me refocus on my career goals.

The Interviewee is my aunt Doreen. I spent every weekend and every summer terrorizing her neighborhood with her three boys, when I was growing up. I saw firsthand how hard she worked to graduate while keeping her kids focused on the same thing, graduating. Her three boys graduated from high school, attended college, and are all on their way to success.

Tony, Doreen's oldest son joined the Army and went to college in Oregon to be an Optometrist. Cody, the middle boy is currently in his senior year at the University of Utah studying to be a software engineer and has an associate's degree in graphic arts. And Chris, the youngest graduated from SLCC with a degree in Airframe and Power Plant Technology and lives in Alaska.

Interviewee Contact Information

Name: Doreen Stout, R.N.
Email: dsstout@hotmail.com
Address: 8177 South Harrison Cir.
Murray UT, 84047
Phone Number: (801) 572-4291

■ Outline

- a) I intend to greet Doreen with a sincere thank you and to keep the interview on track; because we are family, I plan on discussing the reason for the meeting immediately.

The point of the interview is to find as many points of view on juggling professional and family life, especially as a more *mature* student. To identify how to positively influence your children, while nurturing your own blossoming education, and focusing on the families well-being. I will mention that we are bound by a half-hour time limit. However, limits can be bent a little.

Finally, to build instant rapport and to get the Q&A started, I will begin with feeler questions. For example, how is work going? Or how are the grandkids doing? Doreen is an avid and well-seasoned whitewater river rafter. Therefore, I will ask how her past river running trip was. If the water was nice, did you catch any eddies? So on and so forth.

■ Body

- a) Topic 1
 - i) While you were studying for your R.N. degree, how did you balance your own homework load and your children's homework?
 - (1) How do you think the kids reacted to the change of mom going to school?
 - (a) Now, your kids are older do you think they understand that all the times you seemed frustrated with them, was due to your focus for the future and well-being of the family, as a whole?
 - (2) Did you ever question your family's future while going to school?
 - (a) And if so, in what ways did you positively keep on track with pursuing your RN degree?
 - (b) Can you think of any specific examples?
- b) Topic 2
 - i) Other than financially, how did the first year of being an R.N. prove to you that all the sacrifice's, such as missing all the age based activities with your kids for a midterm and the many nights up studying, finally payoff?
 - (1) In your opinion, did the schooling and training prepare you enough for the first years of your career?
 - (a) Is there anything the schooling should have covered but didn't?
 - (b) Did you find an interest in a certain aspect of nursing that you hoped you would use in your job, but never did?
 - (2) Being older when you entered nursing, how did your new coworkers treat you?
 - (a) Do you think being more mature when you entered your trade, helped you deal with coworkers and patients more professionally?
 - (3) How did the sacrifices help you form a more ethical approach when considering the needs of your patients?

c) Topic 3

- i) How did you keep your kids motivated and focused on their education?
 - (1) Do you think you influenced them to go to school, or do you think the motivation is driven by the individual?
 - (a) Is there anything a parent can do to inspire their children to do their best in life?
 - (2) Did you ever become side tracked with school, or your new job, and as a side effect did the kids lose focus on the positive direction, or act in a less than desirable way?
 - (a) How did you deal with the problem?

▪ Clearinghouse Questions

- a) Based on the success of our conversation, I would appreciate any other ideas, or advice that you could think of, if any?
- b) Of course considering my goals that I discussed with you at the beginning of the interview, do you think I have covered all aspects and do you have any more to add?

▪ Closing

I want you to know how much I appreciate you taking the time out of your schedule to conduct this interview. Again, thank you very much. The information you shared is very valuable to me and my research. While I continue thru school, and hopefully into my future career I will consider your experience and your input on how to keep focused on the big picture, family. And again thank you so much.

Post Interview

Be sure to send a thank you card or email and a copy of the final draft of the interview.