

Leadership Immersion Activity

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Leadership is extremely crucial in creating change. I am looking forward to working in the fields of social work and law. To be a true leader in those areas, I need to be well versed in a multitude of areas. In this particular assignment, I will be exploring in more detail aspects such as race and gender.

I picked *Disclosure* due to its extreme relevance to social justice issues present day. This documentary will allow me to expand my worldview on perspectives such as race and gender. While I do study an abundance about the LGBTQIAP+ community, this documentary primarily focuses on transgender, queer, people of color. I identify as a white, cisgender, lesbian. Therefore, I am hoping to gain insight on the struggles that this community has faced in terms of gender identity and race and has bravely persevered through. Additionally, I hope to better understand how to support them as a community and individuals.

Throughout the documentary, I had an array of emotions. I found primarily that I was outraged for them at the continuous misrepresentation that trans folks are experiencing in the media. Even if the representation is well intended, like the *L Word*, it may not always have the result that truly helps the trans community. However, even misrepresentation is important. This is due to the fact that approximately 80% of individuals have stated that they do not know a transgender individual (Feder, 2020). Therefore, media is used as a tool for education and representation of a minority. Additionally, there were many instances in which I felt my body relaxed and become overcome by goosebumps or emotion. Predominately, the previous occurred when actors, actresses, writers, producers, historians, and activists described their realizations of being a transgender individual and how it connected with seeing transgender folks in the media. Lastly, a feeling that stood out to me throughout the documentary was the intensity of transgender folks' fear and worry surrounding disclosure and discovery. Each and every

individual, who was interviewed, bodies tensed up when asked about their period of disclosure and coming out. I remember the fear and worry surrounding my coming out but I do not believe it amounts to nearly half of what transgender folks experience. I am grateful for this experience. I believe it did align with what I thought I would gain from this experience. I was able to gain some amazing insight into how I can be a better leader.

Watching this documentary is life changing. *Disclosure* will greatly help my leadership practice. It has allowed me to learn that in my profession I need to speak up for transgender, queer, and non-binary folks. Hearing the incredible folks in the documentary really put into perspective how much more work I have to do as a leader. In terms of my leadership practice I will need to ensure that I am learning and growing with the trans community. I need to make sure that I am a strong ally of the transgender community.

Watching this documentary was transformative for my perspective. It allowed me to realize that I know an exuberant amount more in the LGB areas. I also recognized that I need to actively work harder to learn more about the transgender community. Additionally, I need to become more active as an ally of the community. By doing this, I will be able to be a better leader and activist for the LGBTQIAP+ community as a whole.

In conjunction to what I have stated above, there are many ways I can incorporate what I learned from this documentary into my future practice. Specifically, I can work closely with those who are in charge of shaping policy to ensure that trans folks needs are being met to their fullest. Furthermore, I can fight both personally and politically to ensure that transgender folks' voices and interests are being heard but also that they are being taken to heart when policy is being created. In a smaller setting, I can work with local communities to ensure the safety of all persons regardless of gender identity and sexual orientation.

I learned an immense amount about expanding my leadership practice as it pertains to gender identity and race. In the fields of social work and law, it is about representing the people you are serving and ensuring that their voices are being heard and protected. *Disclosure* allowed me to gain some insight into how I can create change in the above areas. A major component of my leadership practice will be about listening to those around me and learning from their unique perspectives.

References

Feder, S. (Director). (January 27, 2020). *Disclosure: Trans lives on screen* [Film]. Field of Vision; Bow and Arrow Entertainment; & Level Forward.