Kines 266

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Reflection: Stone Valley High Ropes Course

When I first arrived to Stone Valley, I was not sure what I was in for. I had some experience with climbing and group trust situations, but these scenarios were with people that I had known virtually my whole life. I was not sure how our groups were going to complete the task, especially because we all really did not know each other. I also did not know how much experience everyone else had and knew it was just going to be an interesting day.

We were broken into groups and about to start the course. My group was very positive, but the farther and farther we got up the cargo net, the more unsure we all became. We began the course on the top level, and you could tell by the looks on our faces that we did not know what we were about to get into. As we began the course, our group really came together and helped each other out. Holding onto each other and trusting each other took some of us out of our comfort zones, but I feel that our group did very well. Our group was very positive and never got into arguments like the other groups around us; putting us to an advantage. Our group was able to complete all of the obstacles the hardest ways we, or our tour guide, knew how.

Throughout the day, I feel that the leader role transitioned almost through everyone in the group. We all played fairly equal roles and listened to each other’s ideas. I was able to be a leader and a follower. Although our group was challenged, we had very good tactics to face them with. We faced a few issues in which case we stepped back and regrouped. One obstacle that gave us a few issues was the chariot. It was just a plank of wood that we had to sit on and get everyone across with. We decided to get everyone on at once, which was very challenging for 9 people. After a long discussion on how to do it and finally loading everyone on slowly, we managed to make it to the other side. Looking back, it almost seems impossible to do the things we did that day, but we were able to pull together as a group and meet our team’s goals.

This experience was risky because everyone had to place trust on everyone else. I felt like it was harder for me to trust myself that I could do it, and rather quickly trusted the rest of my group to help me. It is safe to assume that we all felt this way, but we knew that we needed to trust in each other if we wanted to get anything done. Risk was also found in trusting the plans that we made. Some of the goals we set for ourselves seemed completely impossible as we looked at the obstacle, but we were able to fulfill all of our tasks. I feel that at the end of the day we felt very accomplished for conquering the massive course. I was very proud of my group for completing the challenge.

I learned a lot about myself that day. I found out that I was able to overcome many things with my group that I would never have the confidence, or in most cases the ability, to do by myself. This experience revealed many things in me that I did not know. I was able to step up and be a leader, which in turn is a good thing for teaching. It was important to me that we did the job correctly and I feel like this is also important for teaching. Teaching is about helping out when necessary and being able to take control of a group. I feel this experience is great and can be applied to future teaching. It taught me to trust in myself as well as others that I will have to work with in the field. It also taught me that setting goals that may seen to be unreachable is a good thing. Although being suspended in the air from little clips intensifies the situation, I feel that being comfortable on that course and being able to complete the course’s most challenging tasks says a lot about my group and I’s character. Playing it “cool” on the course may be a sign of how things will be handled in a classroom. Overcoming personal fears and making myself the best I can be for students is key for a successful classroom.