

Blizzard Survival Exercise – Student Reflection

Experience: During class students were asked to listen to a narrative that was read by the teacher. The storyline described a scenario where students were stranded with a group of their friends in a blizzard with only minimal supplies. Students were then asked to rank the list of 15 provided items in order of their importance for the group’s survival. After completing this task individually, students were allowed to self-select groups of 5-6 students and try to reach consensus on the “correct” order of the items. Students were then provided with the “experts’ opinion” of the correct order and asked to compare their individual and team results with those of the experts. Finally, the class was provided with the rationale that the experts used to determine their order.

Assignment Directions: For a formative grade (40%), students will write a reflection of their experiences in the Blizzard Survival Exercise. Your narrative can be hand-written or keyed into word processing software (but you must submit in paper format). You should write in complete sentences and use the same standards as those presented in your Language Arts classes. While there is no minimum word count requirement, your work should demonstrate to the reader that you have carefully considered and reflected on the experience. Use as many words/paragraphs/pages that you need to communicate your thoughts effectively.

When writing the narrative, students should consider the following in their reflections:

1. Did you or your team most closely match the experts order and why do think that was true?
2. What does the answer to the first question say about group input on complicated issues?
3. Did you actively participate in reaching a consensus on your team’s order? Describe.
4. Was your team effective in the way they approached reaching agreement on the order?
5. Tell me what you learned about yourself and group participation through this exercise.

Supported Standards

MSBCS-BCSIII-2: The students will demonstrate effective communication skills used to succeed in the business world.

MSBCS-BCSIII-3: The students will demonstrate the ability to problem solve.

- a) Utilize brainstorming techniques
- b) Identify cause and effects.
- c) Understand how a process works.
- d) Understand the big picture and beyond yourself.