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During my time Volunteering at a non-profit organization that taught students how to code there were multiple instances where I had to show and exercise my abilities as a leader. One of the most memorable moments was organizing my workshop for other students. The organization I was once a part of taking coding classes at was now looking for volunteers and I was quick to jump in and participate. It was not my first time volunteering but this was the first time being so hands-on with the work they did. They had told me to start brainstorming for future workshop ideas, I was hesitant and nervous to begin such a big project. With excitement, I shared my thoughts for future workshops with them and although some did not stick with them I learned not to take everything so personally and not be attached to every proposal. Until finally there was that one workshop idea that I would have to plan and carry out, it was a workshop to teach basic python to younger students at a bilingual middle school. Not only was it important for me that this workshop was successful because I wanted to contribute something to the organization but also because I want to be able to inspire young students about the tech field just as I once was. This resonated even more with me because I think students in bilingual schools are more underrepresented because of the lack of funding that their school has and it built more pressure on me to make sure they took the most out of this workshop. The first step of the entire process was working with a higher-up in the organization to check in about the workshop planning goals and understand what exactly I wanted to do. The first idea was to teach just block coding to elementary 5th graders but there were more setbacks if that were the plan, I would have to make sure they had access to computers as well as them having an email to keep their progress. This changed considering all the hassles that came along with it, then changing to teaching older students in middle school because of the likeliness of them having an email as well as their school providing the computers necessary for learning. This one change caused multiple setbacks with the planning of the lessons and the communication between the possible schools that I was considering doing the workshop. Planning this workshop proved the most difficult part, I had to stay on track by emailing different schools as well as reassuring them that I

was on the right path to doing the workshop by my planned goal time. Everything seemed to be in order until one of the schools that said they would be able to host the workshop canceled because of scheduling issues and then I had to make even more adjustments to get everything done promptly. Once everything was ready and I actually showed up for the workshop I was nervous and hesitant because this was an entirely new environment. I had to get up there in front of the students and talk them through what coding was and what it meant to me. It was tough interacting with them the first time because they seemed just as nervous as me, but this gave me an opportunity to make changes for the next session. I even asked for their feedback by the end of the first workshop and them being younger gave very honest feedback that hurt my ego because of all the work I had put into it but most of all helped make changes that would maximize their learning.

This experience of leading a workshop and the steps to creating a smooth successful one can connect back to everything we have learned about how the scientific attitude is shown. Making constant changes and especially receiving constructive feedback from the students was an exemplary experience where I needed to show an open mindset to make changes so their time learning from me was more enjoyable. For instance, the students had mentioned in the first session that they felt it was too easy and they needed more of a challenge so I decided to do something a little different from something I had already planned out beforehand. It meant that I had to put more work into changing everything I already had, but it was definitely worth it when they said it was more interesting for them because it was a greater challenge than before and this was how they were able to learn the most. It was difficult for me to look back and be self-critical although it was the most important part of being in that mindset of willing to make changes for the better. Not to say that the multiple sessions of workshops went perfectly and looking back at it I think it was very far from perfect, but the progression of criticism and change prepared me for that mindset of not taking feedback too personally. A moment during this entire process I think I could have better demonstrated the scientific attitude was during the beginning of brainstorming ideas for different workshops. I was scared of sharing my ideas because of the criticism and judgment that I was thinking I would receive from others. In fear of receiving harsh feedback, I stayed quiet and strayed away from sharing everything I wanted to, which hindered the possibility of creating workshops that I was actually passionate about instead of doing

something that was easier and knew would be accepted among the people running the organization. Adding on to that entire experience was very rewarding hearing from them during the last session that they hope to do something similar again in the future.