

REFLECTION PAPER #1

The education at Santa Clara University has given me profound knowledge on various technical domains within the Computer Science field I'm pursuing, but learning about the Silicon Valley and preparing for the culture and diversities with work code in the organization within the tech hub is something that has helped me be prepared for my journey and experience during the Curriculum Practical Training. There were some of the most interesting and beneficial topics covered during the Co-op Education course like Career Success Through Cultural Style Flexing, Men and Women for Building Effective Teams at Work and many more.

One of the most engaging and helpful topics I found during the Co-op Education course is the key steps in cultural style flexing. I found this to be most thoughtful and useful since these essential steps would help me learn and implement these ways during my curriculum practical training while working in the Silicon Valley. Since I was unaware of the various cultural differences within the workplace in the United States as an International student, these steps will assist me to perform well in my tasks assigned to me and contribute in an effective way by adapting these beneficial ways and working with the organization.

Analyzing the situation and understanding the rules that are being employed within the team/workplace will help me comprehend the scenario and realize the different work codes utilized and maintained in the team/workplace, since being a fresher and working in the Silicon Valley is my first opportunity towards benefiting myself as well as contributing to the technology world. Although, I might find it tedious in the beginning since there might be colleagues from different diverse backgrounds and work culture working under one roof and edifying myself with their ways of working would be tough, it would give me the exposure to acknowledge and adapt those ways in the working environment and diagnose the rules in the early stages of working.

Since working in the Silicon Valley for the first time is itself a challenge, given the diverse work culture and ethics, identifying before working towards the new cultural codes is one big step towards helping myself perform well and get along well with the engaging working environment. From this step, I would pin down the challenges and break it down to connect them well and work towards it, especially in situations where the team lead assigns me a task for the first time and I wish to not freeze and feel unprepared for what's coming due to the cultural differences I learnt before facing them. Furthermore, I would talk to my colleagues and understand their perspective when they first started working and how they managed to adapt to the environment.

After understanding the challenge, overcoming them by tailoring my behavior would help me mingle with others in the workplace and socialize with them by adapting to their cultural behavior and working with it. Coming from a different cultural background, adapting to such a behavior would be difficult but it would help me in a longer run while working with various organizations in the Silicon Valley since it is filled with people from different cultural diversities working together in various companies and this is what makes this Tech Hub unique in many ways. Customizing my behavior would prevent me from being omitted in various situations and adhering with the team.

Personalizing the new behavior and embracing the way it works while socializing and working with colleagues in my team/workplace is an essential step since it would aid me to improve the way I behave if it is not going the right way and offending my colleagues, further hurting their sentiments which would be unethical in many ways. Understanding and respecting the cultural differences and their code of conduct is very important so that the organization faces no cultural issues and appreciates the way of thinking and behavior of the people in the company. Comprehending the behavior and understanding how it would benefit me as well as my colleagues would be a major advantage in being flexible and functioning well within the team/organization.

Consolidating the ways I learned through the various cultural styles I adapted and practicing it in my daily work routine with assessment of my cultural adaptation from time to time is a prime way of enhancing my way of cultural style flexing and operating efficiently in the organization. This step is very crucial for my daily job to ensure that I function well and make everyone feel pleasant with my presence in the team/organization by first, accepting the cultural code, then recognizing the challenges, further working on it, and later building my ways of improving the behavior I adapted and maintain it, further making it a congenial yet professional environment.

Overall, this topic was a major guidance for me as an international student as well as a fresher, newly joining the corporate world, that too the Silicon Valley being my first work place to be at. Working in this tech hub has always been a big opportunity for me to build my career in the Computer Science Technology field and contribute towards the various innovations this Valley has given the world. This topic will help me in an effective way which would help me perform well and work together with my organization and improve the innovations they create by accommodating to their cultural styles. Furthermore, before stepping into this world during the Summer, where I will be working with one of the fastest growing organizations in the Healthcare industry through technology, these steps would aid me in preparing well to contribute to this organization and working together with the team assigned to me and improving my overall experience working in the Silicon Valley.