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## ENGR 303 HW 2

*Setting: Jade and Peter are two friends discussing Peter's current situation at his first, post-grad, full-time job.*

**Jade:** How has the first 6 months been at work?

**Peter:** Ehh...I'm kind of bored of it already. I don't enjoy what I do and I feel like I'm not doing anything really important.

**Jade:** It's still early though! Maybe in time, you'll get a project you're really excited about.

**Peter:** Maybe. I mean, I was an engineering intern there for a year, but the full-time position they gave me isn't even engineering. It feels like my 4 years of torture were all for nothing. Either way, I already started looking for jobs again.

**Jade:** Oh wow, already? You really don't want to give them a chance? The CEO and other employees seem to really like you, otherwise they wouldn't have even offered you the position.

**Peter:** I know, but I have to look out for myself. Why do I want to continue going into work every morning to do something that makes me so miserable? I want to be passionate about whatever project I'm given.

**Jade:** I'm not telling you that you owe them anything - because you don't - but if you're in the middle of a big study or something, you shouldn't leave them hanging and abandon them out of the blue.

**Peter:** Oh don't worry, I wouldn't do that. I think since I've been working from home a lot more recently, there's not really much to "abandon".

**Jade:** That makes sense. Have you talked to your manager about how you feel about the work they've been giving you?

**Peter:** Not really. She's seen me struggle on concepts that I never learned in school, but every time I ask her for guidance, she gets baffled that I don't know something even though I've told her before that this isn't my background. I end up having to do the research on my own, and if I mess something up, she gets mad at me. She definitely isn't the understanding type.

**Jade:** That sounds horrible.

**Peter:** Yeah, she even got passive aggressive towards me when she found out that the head of engineering invited me to a meeting and I ended up attending. And that one meeting was probably my highlight so far during my time there.

**Jade:** Wow. Well, if a meeting was the most exciting part of your job, then you definitely made the right choice in starting to find something else that better suits your interests. In the meantime, even though your boss isn't the most open-minded person, maybe you can try and discuss ways to bridge your position with the engineering department so that you can build a connection with the people there as long as you're not in the middle of any pressing matters.

**Peter:** Yeah, I guess I should try to make the most out of my time there.

**Jade:** You also want to make sure you leave on a good note with everyone - that way, they can write you a good recommendation once you find what you're looking for.

**Peter:** That's very true.

**Jade:** I know you'll eventually find something you like. And maybe you'll like the company so much, you'll even stay there for many years!

**Peter:** Haha, maybe!

**Jade:** Well, best of luck to you!!

**Peter:** Thanks, I'll keep you updated!

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### Reflection

In this scenario, Jade and Peter show different mindsets towards work. Peter is struggling to find any joy in his work which makes him want to leave in search of better opportunities. He wants to prioritize himself and make sure he's happy with what he has to do five days of the week. While Jade fully supports her friend, she wants to make sure he explores all the options within his current company in a way to honor the relationship he's built with them over the years. She's looking at the bigger picture and ensuring that he maintains a good relationship with his employers even after he leaves. Jade is playing the role of Devil's Advocate by opening up the conversation with the company's interest in mind. However, after hearing more details of Peter's experience, she sees that Peter really is having a hard time and agrees he should start applying to new jobs.

These two perspectives may relate to the differences in their brain science. Jade's stance may be due to the worrywart and increased anxiety that women tend to have because of a larger anterior cortex. This conversation has led her to worry about Peter and the effects of his decision, whether that be getting on the bad side of the company or him becoming even more disappointed at the next job. And on the other hand, the anterior cortex in men is often associated with being more of a risk-taker, which Peter appears to be. Neither of these mindsets are bad - it just shows

the thought process and priorities that men and women may differ in. These somewhat opposing perspectives allow for better dialogue and conversation to be had in order to come to the right conclusion in the end.