Reflection 3: Just-in-time learning

1. The problem that I had to face and figure out very quickly was when my 20-year-old car stopped running in the middle of a busy road, out of nowhere. The facts that I knew going into it was that this was not a rare occurrence for the car I was driving at the time and that it was probably a problem with the engine since this car has had engine problems in the past. Unfortunately, the level of knowledge I had on cars was not high enough for me to figure out any useful solutions on the spot.
2. Since the car had stopped in the middle of the road and pressing the accelerator did nothing, my first instinct was to turn my hazards on since a stopped car in the middle lane can be dangerous on any road. The next idea I had was to try to put the car in park and take out the key so that I could attempt to make the car start again, but this did not work.
3. A learning issue I faced was getting confused when the car stopped while the gear shift was in drive. I attempted to change the gear shift to park without having my foot on the brake because it felt like I already did have my foot on the brake, since the car was stopped. This didn’t work, and since this happened right at the beginning of the stressful situation, it stressed me out even more. It was difficult learning how to operate a car whose engine just stopped running in the middle of driving, when the keys were still in the ignition and the gear shift was at drive.
4. My action plan consisted of sitting in the car at a loss for what to do. I then proceeded to call my dad since I felt like he would know what to do, as he was familiar with this car. This source was on my phone in the form of his number, which I had saved. Another source, that I didn’t expect to have, were people from the shops on the side of the road walking onto the street to help me push my car to the side of the road while it was in neutral. In this way, the sources to solve my problem came from different places.
5. By the end of the learning process, I was very frustrated and stressed out. After sitting in the car for about 15 minutes waiting for my brother to come meet me and pick me up with another car, I tried to start the car one more time and thankfully it started. I wouldn’t consider that to make the experience a success because it was more luck than me being able to figure out the solution to my problem. By the time my brother got to me, I was able to follow him in my own car. Although I was happy the car ended up working again, the whole experience only served to make me more apprehensive when driving that car. Later, I did learn how to jumpstart a car in case that happened again in the future.