Sushma, a senior developer on your team, tells you that she thinks an ERD is a waste of time. You can simply develop the database using Transact-SQL, and then show the completed layout to developers if needed. What would you say to her to convince her she is incorrect?

I would tell her that an Entity Relationship Diagram (ERD) is very important to complete before even developing the database. If she started on developing the database without an ERD then she would be comprising the foundation and integrity of the data from the start.

I would tell her that her idea would work only if she was developing a database for herself since she would be the only one that can visualize the development of the database and even then it is too complex to accomplish without any notes referencing the steps. However, this is a collaborative effort which needs the expertise, guidance and feedback of others, as well as the end user group which will provide valuable feedback. This process would be very complex to explain to another person because there is no diagram of her thought process on the database. This would make it incredibly difficult for anyone else to review, advise or give feedback on. With an ERD, she can get a better idea of her own thought process on the development because this is far too complex to do with any sort of blueprint to follow. The ERD can act as the blueprint which is an evolving document based on customer preferences, data integrity and efficiency.