Dr. Shira Schwartz

SPCOM100

Robbie Knowles

24/09/2020

Journal 4: Listening (310 words)

To do this week’s journal I asked my girlfriend to debate me on a topic that we mutually care about: who’s favorite childhood tv show is objectively the best (“Naruto” for me and “Avatar the Last Airbender” for her). I started by saying that I thought Naruto was a much better tv show and then immediately took a **silent listener** approach. This was counter productive however, as I think simply remaining silent made it seem like I was just **mindlessly listening** as when we talk normally, I try to be a **supportive listener**.

After she explained her connection to the show and how it influenced her, I tried to ask open ended questions to learn more about why she liked the show. One question I asked was “How do you think the art style influenced your enjoyment of the show” as she is part of the arts faculty and does amazing drawings. This transition into doing more **relational listening** was a great choice as communication is a two person effort so its really hard when your quiet to properly come to a conclusion (unless the other person needs to rant). While this strategy worked well for a time until my **personal concerns** got in the way; I was coming up with worse and worse questions as I was thinking more about what food we should get after rather than the conversation.

I think this exercise was helpful however, as through my questioning and paraphrasing I learned about why she liked “Avatar the Last Airbender” and more importantly I learned more about how she perceives things around her. While I still prefer Naruto over “Avatar the Last Airbender”, I feel like I can empathize more sincerely with why she likes her childhood cartoon more then she likes mine!

I