

Transcript for Apple Gabriel Video

Apple Gabriel

My name is Apple Gabriel, a 24-years-old young man. I graduated in the year 2020 in my high school. Currently, I'm pursuing Bachelor of Commerce at University of Illinois State. I work part time as a transcriber. My hobbies are watching movies, interacting with friends, reading novels, and also listening to music.

Kimberly Aguillard

Now you have a free marketing opportunity. So do you want to tell people what sort of business you're interested in starting?

Apple Gabriel

I want to venture into entrepreneurship whereby I will be manufacturing milk products such as yogurt, etc. And I hope for you, all of you, to be my customers. I will be happy to feed you all.

Kimberly Aguillard

Great. So now can you talk about what kind of things make you want to stay involved with the group or keep going back to a program?

Apple Gabriel

A group enables me to view myself as a part of that group. That is, it enhances the belonging-ness of that group. I recognize myself as a member of that group. The other thing is that in the group, I'm able to learn leadership skills that will help me very soon in my entrepreneurship business that I will be starting after my university course.

The other thing is that I'm able to learn listening skills to each member of the group's views. I will also try these listening skills to when I start my business whereby I will be listening to my customers. I will be taking their views. I would also be listening keenly to my employees. You know, communication is very key in for the success of our business.

So therefore I would be very keen and I will have listening ears to all stakeholders in my business. The other thing is that I'm able to learn the diversity of culture among different members of a group, because a group may be made of different people from different ethnicities and from that I'm able to learn different cultures from each person in that group.

A group also enhances or strengthens the bond or creates connection that is not networking, it's friends. You have a chance to create new friendships and also a bond where that friendship can be very helpful. For example, when starting my business, I need maybe partners. We shall be sharing the same common goal. So a group basically helps me a lot.

And the fact that in a group many people are able to listen to me that boosted my self-esteem. I feel that I'm worthy, that I'm not inferior person. That really boosts my self-esteem.

Kimberly Aguillard

Great. Now, are there things that discourage you from staying involved with programs like can you describe maybe some of those things?

Apple Gabriel

Yeah. The thing one is that when the group loses its meaning, that is when we drew our attention to other things other than the main focus or the goal of the group, it may feel that my time is wasted and I may be discouraged to continue in that group. Therefore, I would like a group whereby when we set goals or the purpose of the group, we stick to that and that will save our time and we will be focusing on the main things.

Another thing is something that discourages me is when there is discrimination based on your ethnicity, based on your culture. That really hurts me a lot. It's not good to be discriminated. Yeah, that to me, discourages me from being a member of such a group. We should love each other. We should try not to discriminate each other. We are all one.

The other thing is that lack of respect for each members or for some members. This is whereby some people may feel that their opinions are best and disregard other members' opinions. That is very bad in a group. We are open to different opinions. No one's opinion is perfect. No one's opinion is right. So everyone should be listened to and discuss those opinions and to come up with the best instead of negating some opinions.

Kimberly Aguillard

Thank you so much. So I just have one more question for you. What advice or tips do you have for organizations who are trying to engage out-of-school youth with disabilities from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds in programs?

Apple Gabriel

I have three pieces, sorry, four pieces of advice. The first one is these organizations should involve all people from these minority backgrounds or minority communities. They should not discriminate any community. They should involve all communities so that they can learn or incorporate everyone in these programs.

The other thing is that they can partner with government or other organizations so as to complete their goals effectively. The government could do some funding to this organization. We know that when government is supporting a project or an organization, the output work definitely would be much better compared to when there is no support for funding from the government.

The other thing is that these organizations should conduct surveys, should conduct civil educations to these people of these minority backgrounds. They should teach them and let them learn more about the program, what is the aim of the program, the objective of the programs and what are the benefits that you gain as being a member of that program.

The other third way is that the organizations should lead by example. They should be employing these people from these different or minority backgrounds or communities to be their staff members in that program. And that would be my advice for today.