Module 1 Question D

Personal information, motivation for taking this course, what you hope to learn from it.

My name is Karen Baker. I took an early retirement after fifteen years of working for The Family Court of the State of Delaware as a Program Coordinator for the Court Appointed Special Advocate program. I was a supervisor for approximately 26 to 40 volunteers who were appointed by the Court to represent abused and neglected children who were in foster care. As a coordinator for this program, I would recruit, screen, interview, train, evaluate and supervise these volunteers. Case management was one of the main responsibilities in this position.

I was the owner of two dance studios for many years. I taught creative dance for the youngest children, ballet, jazz, tap, and modern dance for all ages. Choreography was one of my favorite things to do. I was a sole proprietor and was responsible for all of the teaching, choreography, and managing the business that included all financial responsibilities.

Many times, I was asked what this law, dance thing was about. I said that I was balancing my right and left brain. I worked in the legal field during the day and when the kids were out of school, I would teach them dance in the afternoon and evenings. I found it to be satisfying and what I needed and wanted in my life.

As far as education is concerned, I am truly a lifelong learner. I pursued numerous and varied educational opportunities. Some of those areas were/are criminal justice, paralegal studies, dance, voice, drums, medical billing and coding, football and organizational leadership.

I have always had an interest in critical thinking, and I am insatiable when it comes to learning. Thinking about thinking can be fascinating and it seems there really is no end as to where that can take you. The thought of that is very intriguing.

For fun, I sometimes say, that I don’t know what I want to be when I don’t grow up and I will pose that as a question to people and ask, what do you want to be when you don’t grow up. I get puzzled by their looks sometimes and people will hear that question without really listening, interpreting it as if I am asking them, what do you want to be when you grow up. That would be the more typical question. Anyway, it can all be in good fun I think.

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