

Sukurat Jawando

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SWK357

4 February 2023

### Reflection Week 1

What has been the most difficult aspect of beginning an internship given your life experience or experience with previous internships? What strengths have you gained from your previous internship or life experiences that can help you meet the challenge?

The internship opportunity is a way for me to gain hands-on experience through mentorship and learning how to communicate with clients and their family, learn research skills and/or methods that can help in my career journey and also harness or sharpen my understanding of the profession.

I am enthusiastic about starting as soon as my background check is complete and I am cleared from the medical test required. I had submitted to volunteer with the Alzheimer's Association, Houston and Southeast Texas Chapter and The Memory Place, Eldridge Chapter Houston Texas. The first major difficulty I encountered was being considered as a preference. Student's from Texas Universities are first considered before students from other out-of-state schools. Once accepted, communication went more smoothly but the process was not as fast as I'd hoped. I hope to begin soon so that I can write about my experience.

My experience working at The Brielle, a non-profit assisted living community on Staten Island, NY, which offers assisted living and memory care services to seniors. My work as a PCA taught me to be patient, compassionate, dependable, attentive and trustworthy. I believe these

skill sets will help me in my place of internship, as I am likely to work with the same population group.

As you read the description of the stages of an internship, did the stages remind you of any other experiences you have had? If so, in what ways? What strengths do you draw from the similarities? What challenges do you expect to face knowing what you know?

All the stages remind me of my experience at my previous workplace at Brielle. My first Anticipation then was both excitement and some anxiety on how to showcase my skills and also fit in and be a team player without compromising my qualities. My worries were laid to rest during training and induction. Everyone's objective was clearly stated.

My Excitement quickly wore off when I realized that not everyone takes their job seriously. They show little compassion to the client's plight to an extent where negligence becomes a weekly topic during staff meetings and suspected misconduct were reported and dealt with accordingly. It was clear to me then that once compassion is lost, it's time to leave the Job.

My competence improved over time and I began taking on more responsibilities. I am not sure how this organizations structure works, I am hoping they will be very inclusive and intentional in their care approach, that way I get to learn.