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EXPLORING SKILLS THAT ARE IMPERATIVE IN ACADEMIC LIFE

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Abstract: The purpose of this article is to study in detail the fact that in addition to knowledge, students still need to have a set of forceful skills. The article will use a description of terminologies and an objective, sometimes subjective, understanding of them. All of the following aspects were personally applied by the authors of the article and therefore the work will be accompanied by examples from my own experience.

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Introduction

We are all familiar with the expression "C student (mediocre student)" and as a rule, this student achieves greater success than "A student (excellent student)." This unwritten rule is suitable for all countries of the post-Soviet area. And in fact, statistics show that "C students" most often have much more chances to gain high status, and excellent students - less. However, the pitfalls of the above statement are there to come. Surely, many of the readers can recall examples of contradictions. Some will really remember acquaintances and friends with poor academic performance, but now they are rich and successful personalities. The second will say that the C students have remained unsuccessful in life. Still, others will try to mention honors students who are very smart and have achieved everything on their own. The latter can point a finger at super-smart people who have not achieved anything significant, except for high scores in exams. And the verdict is that everyone is right and wrong at the same time. Along with knowledge, there are many more aspects that affect us during our student life. It can be called - diplomacy, healthy socialization, ingenious thinking, and much more. Some of them will be exhaustively discussed with the addition of my personal experience.

Creativity

According to Oxford languages¹, Creativity is the use of imagination or original ideas to create something; inventiveness. You must be thinking that people in the

past somehow invented innovations and came up with what we now use. Even so, those were few, bright minds. But in general, any deviation from the norms was punished very strongly, up to the death penalty. Remember the great scientists. I don't even have to bother writing names - at least on the fingers of your hand, you can definitely count the great representatives of science and art, decease of which was not as successful as their works. Taking into account the Google Books Ngram Viewer (pic.1) graph, we can see that the frequency of the word "creativity" began to increase dramatically after the 1950s. Such an "explosion" can be described by the fact that it was during this period that such international declarations as the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" (10 Dec 1948 y.), "European Convention on Human Rights" (4 Nov 1950 y.) and others were created. This is due to the provision of a person with freedom of thought and activity. Although we reached the full concept of "freedom" a little later, the foundation was laid precisely in the middle of the 20th century. Nowadays, such a skill as "creativity" is encouraged not only in the field of education but in other lines of the spectrum of human life as well. It is enough for a student to follow the charter of morality and ethics, as well as academic guidelines (deadline, given topic, selection of information, and so on) in order to



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successfully pass the work and be sure that it will be accepted with dignity.

pic.1

As the author of this article, I can cite myself as an example. So, we, third-year students, were given the task to write a scientific article related to the field of education, teaching, linguistics and everything interconnected to these topics. Technical parameters, deadlines and rules for writing papers were set. I was in a long thought about which topic to choose. There were quite a few goals on my list that weren't exactly to my liking. Anyhow, I decided to give a glance aside and the decision came by itself. I undertook to write about something that helps a lot in the academic life of me and my classmates. One of the manifestations of creativity.

Flexibility

Conforming to Oxford languages, flexibility is the quality of bending easily without breaking; the ability to be easily modified; willingness to change or compromise. This aspect is much older than the previous one. The words of Charles Darwin (1809 – 1882) prove this by: "It is not the strongest species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the most responsive to change" ³. From history, we know that during the siege of fortresses, the main gates are pierced by a battering ram. But you can get into the heart of the enemy's abode only by knowing the bypass loopholes.

This does not mean that you have to completely change your values, priorities and become a different person. And therefore, we must understand the difference between "adapting to others" and "being very quirky." My own example can serve as confirmation of this: When I first entered the university, the level of my English -

there is still room for improvement. However, regardless of that, I needed to “stay in the game”. During the Zoom⁴ lessons, I always had an online translator ready in the browser. While the others answered the teacher's questions, I constructed my speech in my head, using an interpreter to adapt my thoughts into English. This is a prime example of the cooperation of flexibility and creativity. Further, I have already learned to build my speech in my head without using third-party tools. We can say that the meager level of knowledge of the language was a change for which I was not ready. And I had to bend in every way to get through this obstacle.

Improvisation

By stating of Oxford Languages, improvisation is the action of improvising; something that is improvised, in particular, a piece of music, drama, etc. created spontaneously or without preparation. Pay attention to the "without preparation" part. Usually, our performances are always planned, we have a plan that we follow. What if the situation is changed and something unexpected happened? The electricity suddenly disappeared or the computer from which your presentation was supposed to be shown stopped working. In general, you can point out the fact that this is a technical issue and the performance is being postponed. Nevertheless, this act will leave an aftertaste for your show. Or you are working in pairs, and your partner did not show up, and you did not learn his or her part. You will not indicate that you will answer only your half, will you? The ability to improvise is the best friend in such moments.

During my three years of study at the university, many times I came across specific moments when I was forced to improvise. And then I committed it on purpose. Sometimes I didn't even prepare specifically to check how much I enhanced this skill. The success of your improvisation depends on the development of your originality.

Procrastination

You probably think that this aspect got on my list by mistake?! Because in consonance with the Oxford language, Procrastination is the action of delaying or postponing something. And you will be completely right when you state that procrastination leads to severe and incorrigible problems at the mentality and self-realization levels. And as we know, a medal has two sides.

Let's ask ourselves a question - how can the above skill help us? After all, we simply may not be in time before the end of the deadline for the submitting of an assignment or project. If you have a goal you want to achieve, you will start to think differently. This is where the related trinity of procrastination-improvisation-creativity comes into play. Often during my training, I had to think outside the box and improvise. Since I work during the day, I go to my classes after work and return home very late. It turns out that doing homework for studying or preparing a project remained for the weekend. Also on weekends, there were household chores and personal matters. As a result, we see that there is no time at all. And very often the most profitable time for me was the period from 12 p.m. to 3 a.m. the day before the lessons. And in those moments, the fear that I might fail the subject effectively influenced my thoughts and productivity.

Diplomacy

As reported by the Oxford Language, diplomacy is the art of dealing with people in a sensitive and tactful way. Of course, you are the main reason for your success. But your part is also occupied by how you interact or not with the outside world, in particular with society and people. The ability to correctly express your

thoughts and constructively negotiate with human beings can sometimes form the basis for your future success. For me, diplomacy is to defend your goals with an objective perception of reality and taking into account outside influences; it is the correct presentation of information and the timely exchange of information with others; a belief that communication and discussion is a very useful tool.

As the monitor of my group, I constantly need to resort to the ability to arrange not only with students but with teachers as well. The important point is that I must protect the interests of my classmates without encroaching on the interests of teachers, while not forgetting about my own.

Effective Googling⁵

Well, with this skill, everything is very simple. With the advent of the Google⁶ search engine, the concept of Googling appeared. So, google or googling is searching for information about (someone or something) on the internet using the search engine Google (oxford language). Henceforward, this term has become a generally accepted synonym for "search for information." To find ordinary information - just enter the question in the search box. In order to find essential information, you need to be able to google effectively.

For instance, I use important search life hacks that others have suggested or that I have realized alone, such as:

- not use the information given on the first page of the search results. If you want to be exclusive;
- if you need a file with a specific extension, then to add them at the end of the request (.jpg .pdf .doc .txt and so on);
- if you have no idea about the name of the object, to resort to recognition and search by photo;
- to save sites where you found useful information at least once;
- and far more.

Conclusion

Summing up, we found out that a successful student, and a person in general, is not only a person with knowledge but also a combination of the above skills and more. Just owning the information in our time is not enough. It is important to utilize it correctly. And even all possible skills will not help us if we do not have a goal - this is worth remembering once and for all.

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