Coleton Beesley

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Signature Assignment

I have enjoyed learning from this class because it has taught me so much about the different aspects of business. I have been shown new views and perspectives on business and how it can be managed in many different styles. I have learned from the readings of this class that business ideas have varied throughout history. The world has gone through a kind of renaissance as societies have risen and fallen as different business practices have led people to fail or succeed. In many ways, I feel this class helped me to go through a successful renaissance experience myself for a few different reasons. Before I took this class, I did not know a whole lot about business or even how to think critically. Now, I understand that critical thinking involves the analysis of facts to form a judgment. It is necessary to use critical thinking to make decisions in business if one is to be successful and take risks. I have learned and hope to apply many different ideas that will help me be successful. First, I have learned about the different ways to manage a business, including how to treat your employees and what morals or ethics to use when selling your products or services to the general public. Second, I have learned that I am not the only individual who doesn’t enjoy repetitive manual labor and that it’s important to follow your dreams to be happy. Lastly, I know what I would have to do to open my own business and what risks and barriers I would have to overcome to be successful in today’s world of business.

From learning new vocabulary words and their meanings to reading the accounts of philosophers and men of business throughout history, I have adopted ideas of how to treat people as employees and customers. Treating your employees with respect and making them feel important makes them want to work hard for you because the relationship they will have with you will be a personal one. Allow them to take on responsibilities and help run the business to build trust with them. Peter Drucker stood by these beliefs and was known as “the Father of Management” because he was a strong advocate for decentralization in management. Teaching managers to delegate tasks empowered the employees and helped create a stronger workforce. Gaining the customer's trust is important too because this will make them feel confidant in doing business with you. It’s important to point out any defects or faults a product may have if one is to do honest business dealings. Businesses that have happy employees and satisfied returning customers are ones that will succeed. I know these are principles that I will use in my business.

I have often felt unsatisfied at work and I was happy to learn that I am not the only individual not enjoying repetitive manual labor. I loved learning about the employees in a business and the perspective they have on their work. Studs Terkel was an American author and radio broadcaster who lived from 1912-2008. He is famous for doing interviews with average working citizens. He organized about 100 interviews with the ordinary workforce into a book titled Working: People Talk About What They Do All Day and How They Feel About What They Do. He interviews one man that talks about his job and the way he feels towards going to work to perform a job he does not enjoy. Though this interview took place decades before our time, Mike Lefevre’s ideas on going to work are still relevant today. He is a manual laborer who cannot find pride or satisfaction in his work. He does not get to see the finished product or say what his role in the creation was. Men want to be able to look at their finished work with pride and satisfaction knowing that they did it. He must perform a few simple tasks repetitively throughout the day that requires him to do a lot of heavy lifting. Mike tells us that this type of work makes him fatigued and gives him a bad attitude because he is not excited about coming to work because he always gets tired and just wants to sit down. I can relate to Mike’s point of view on going to do a job that one cannot find joy in doing. I perform several objectives throughout the day that do not allow me to be mentally stimulated or emotionally satisfied with the result. I start work in the early morning which prevents me from getting enough rest and having a nice breakfast. I’m tired and hungry throughout the day and in a bad mood because of it. Mike tells us the truth of how the system is running when he talks about how he has to continue to work at a job he hates because he has to provide for a family who relies on him. Though he feels he cannot change his circumstances, he believes you can change your prosperity. The way to do that is to help your children to get a good education by sending them to college and encouraging them to follow their dreams of pursuing a career that they will enjoy doing. I have been inspired by Mike’s words and I have chosen to take the risk of doing my business full time. I have had to do a lot of critical thinking to make this decision, but the facts have led me to take the risk. I believe it will make me happier and that I will make more money. After reading this article, it has inspired me to not spend another day being unhappy doing something that I don’t love doing. Opening one’s own business is a great way to work for yourself and find joy in doing work that will provide well for oneself. Applying what we have learned in this class regarding being a business manager and treating employees with respect and appreciation is going to help run a successful business smoothly.

           After learning and thinking about the principles and ideas learned in this class, I know what I would have to do to open my own business and what risks and barriers I would have to overcome to be successful in today’s world of business. My wife and I are fearful of taking risks because there is a chance at failing, but if one doesn’t try, one will never succeed. It’s important to leave my comfort zone if I am ever going to learn and grow to be successful. I liked how everything we learned could be applied to modern business principles and examples of today. These examples have shown me that we can learn from those in history and use their ideas to our advantage. It was interesting to learn about how some parts of business were invented, like the idea of trusts by the Vikings. I enjoyed learning about the use of Scientific Management to increase production speed and productivity in factories, like Henry Ford using the assembly line in his factories. These ideas have changed how businesses are run today and part of my renaissance experience has been adopting and applying these ideas to make me a successful individual by learning to take risks and working hard to be successful. Overcoming the fears of failure are necessary if one is to take risks to better one’s circumstances and accomplish desired goals. This class has prepared me to do that which I believe will make me a successful business manager.