

Madison Crowell

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My experience and how it's prepared me

I have experienced many conflicts in my life, some that I was included in. One specific time I was in a conflict with someone would be when this girl I don't particularly like joined a club that I had been a part of for the past two years, and she didn't know how to do the job we had to do together. I didn't like her because of how she treated me and my best friend in the near past, and because she would make jokes about my family or about my looks, so consequently, I didn't feel comfortable around her. She joined in after I was specifically asked if I would be comfortable with her there, to which I responded "No". Nevertheless, she was brought in and given huge responsibility without any practice or background with the field she was working in. Since I wanted this part of the work to be successful, because I too was working in the same field, I was worried about the result of her work and if she was even going to be able to complete it. I acted irrationally and irresponsibly and switched the physical area I worked in as, again, I didn't feel comfortable around her. Some people that were in charge didn't know our history or what she had said and thought I was being petty, and they kicked me from working there all together. The field I had been working in was one that I enjoyed greatly, and I was devastated that the people in charge didn't believe me and even agreed with her or sided with her to some degree. Because of this, and because of certain people of high ranking talking, gossiping, and spreading lies about me, I lost a lot of friends and still have trouble making new friends because they heard said gossip and lies about me. I do believe that I was treated unfairly and badly, but I have since let it go and have decided that I don't need them to like me. I don't need everyone to

always agree with me for us to work towards peace by setting our disagreements off, but apparently, they didn't agree to do so.

From this experience, I learned that not everyone is going to like you, and you don't need everyone to like you. Individuality can add varying views and perspectives to bring you and who you are working with a new way of looking at problems and their respective solutions. I learned that you aren't always going to get along with everyone, but you still need to be able to work with them. You need to set aside your differences and work towards a common goal together, and if we, as a society, just all agree to disagree for the sake of peace, we would achieve it very quickly. We all want the same thing, to an extent. We all want peace in our lives. No one wants to live in constant conflict and quarrel. As the great rock band, The Rolling Stones, said "You can't always get what you want... you get what you need". What we need as a society is peace not always resolution or revenge. There's not always a consequence to not choosing to be the bigger person, so sometimes it seems appropriate to choose to be petty. However, sometimes, especially in workplaces, there is great consequence to stooping so low to get back at someone. This experience has taught me a valuable lesson in individuality. Specifically, I don't need everyone to agree with me, or vice versa, for us to be able to create something meaningful and important. We can be our own people while still working together; we *should* be our own person when working with others because that can vastly broaden the results and what we put into it, even when we don't agree with who we are working with.