Self-Reflection

In this self-reflection I will be analyzing a group that has helped me become more comfortable in this huge NCSU community, my suite. When I first met the whole group, I saw a diverse group of individuals, which could be our background, beliefs, or personality. It seemed as if everyone had something to offer to the table. I’m an extrovert so I knew that from day one I wanted to socialize as much as possible to make new friends and become more comfortable in this environment. This was evident when we all gathered up in my room on the first day. Everyone was introducing themselves and giving a little background on where they’re from and what they’re here for. Then open conversations just started, but to me it felt as if I was the only one talking in the conversations. That was a small flag for me because in the back of my head I had this feeling that I wouldn’t be too close with these guys, but I was wrong. After a couple of days passed, I started to get to know the guys a lot better. We would all either gather up in Shane and Colbys room to play 2k or gather up in Dalton and Miles room to just have a good conversation. I was glad that by the end of the first week I was able to say that I would want to hangout with my suitemates. I’ve been talking to a lot of my friends and most of them talk about how they aren’t close with their suite or that everyone shuts their doors. When they describe their suite situations, I always feel lucky that I found a great group of friends that respect one another and hold each other accountable for their goals. In this suite we do reflect the relational leadership model in multiple ways. This suite is inclusive and strives to empower one another. When there are issues in the suite, we go through a process to resolve them.

One of our core values as a group collectively is being inclusive. We all have different faiths, personalities, and interests. However, we all always find ways to include everyone in a conversation. For example, Sidd and I are the only Hindus in the suite. All of the other guys are Christians and it’s always cool how we have open discussions about each others faith. It never turns into a debate over who’s right and who’s wrong. When conversations like these start it comes from a place of curiosity of what other people believe in and how that has impacted their outlook on life or how that's impacted their personality. It could be as something as small as “how many books of scripture do y’all have in Christianity?” to “hey Colby you want to play a game of 2k real quick?”. It’s these small things such as asking how a suitemates day has gone or if they heard about this on campus that brings everyone closer in the suite.

 In our suite it almost feels like our inclusiveness has in turn helped empower others in our suite that have felt as if they never had a voice. I’m not going to list any names in this paper, but at the start of this month you could easily tell who the introverts and extroverts were in the suite. However, if you compared those individuals at the start of the month with how they are now it’s almost as if they’re new people. That’s the empowering aspect in inclusiveness itself. When an individual feels as if they’re part of a group, naturally, they will feel empowered to speak whats on their mind or share something with the group. Personally, I can say that this group has made me realize that being myself is ok and that I don’t have to hide small things from a group at the expense of my mental health. I believe that we have all empowered each other to the point where we know that our personality and opinion is appreciated in this group and any other groups that we are involved in.

 When dealing with problems in the suite this branches off from our following of the empowering aspect of the relational leadership model. We all get together as a suite and we discuss how we want to solve a problem or what do we want to do to make suite life more fun. For example, at the start of the month Dalton and I talked about how much fun it would be to play Catan with all of the suitemates. So, we asked all the suitemates if they would be interested in possibly playing a board game. All of them wanted to play and now we have Catan in our room for us to play whenever we want to.

 Overall, my suite has helped me become more comfortable on campus. We always check up on one another and we all genuinely care about one another. We all have different personalities, but our respect for another has made us a close group of individuals that are trying to work their way through life. I feel that we all are fortunate to have this group because it’s always good to have a group of people to fall back to when everything seems to be going wrong. I know that my suitemates have my back and I got their backs as we all mature into future leaders.