

I walked into my administration conference room and I saw a power point and I knew we were going to be hearing from our campus manager. I work at the Utah Boys Ranch and we get trained and have devotionals where kids and adults that have benefited from this program come and speak to the staff. I had preconceptions as to what was going to be said during this speech, I was already board and not going to listen. This particular event was going to teach us how to use some clinical tools and instruct us on how to effectively teach the boys respect and manners.

The instructor waled into the room and started the presentation with a very interesting picture that was not funny but corky at best. It was a pic of a surfer and a shark swimming close by each other and he said some lame joke to go with it. He then started off by telling us about the projected outcome of this seminar and told us of a few experiences from past boys and staff. This did catch my attention a bit more for it applied more to me than a stupid joke. This was a time where the speaker (Jeff Merdock) was speaking from improve not from a memorized speech. Was had great facial expression like he was trying to remember the stories and details about them. His hand language was all over the place and you could tell what he wanted to say with the story was sincere. After the life experiences he went on to the meat of his speech which was some pyramid of trust with the boys.

This said pyramid was only shown for about one minuet and I didn't understand it, He only explained the tip of the pyramid. He went on to explain that the kids need certain structures in the home and at school to develop heathy and to have a good attitude and outlook on life. He explained about four sided personality

chart and that we need to be in the center. The sides were: accountability, connecting, organization and empowerment. He explained when we as staff are not in the center it can help the troubled teen to develop personality disorders such as: borderline, narcissistic, anti-social and many more. This hit home it put responsibility back on me and I paid more attention.

His conclusion was not very potent and I wanted it to end so many times and he didn't tell me when he just ended, This was weird cause no one knew when to clap so it was really awkward. His body motion was very minimal and only came out when he was not reciting his speech (which was only at the beginning). Its lucky for him that I already kind of believed what he was trying to say due to my preconceptions of how a family and kid should be raised. So I do agree with what he said and gained close to nothing from him babbling on about some speech he wrote ten years ago, and now he makes a living off of it reciting it to staff at the Utah boy ranch.

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