

Outside the Box Thinking Reflection

PPD 3, Fall 2021

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1. Due Date: **Wednesday, September 22nd by 5pm CDT/6pm EDT**

Write a one-page reflection about a time where you had to think critically and outside the box in your everyday life.

- Give a step-by-step reasoning behind your thought processing.

Over the course of the past three years, I have had to move three separate times. I have moved to an apartment in Virginia for my last year of undergrad, then 14 hours away to Memphis to begin school at UTCOP, and then one final time as I transferred to Knoxville. During this time, I continued to accumulate many huge pieces of furniture that only became much more labor intensive with every move. When I got to Memphis is the first time I had gotten a couch of my own, it just so happened to be a very large sectional. I lived on the second floor of an apartment complex, and the stairway was completely walled in on both sides and also very skinny. Unfortunately for us, the delivery service did not do the labor in moving the couch, they only dropped it off. Only my mother and I were around to move this large and heavy couch up the stairs and into my apartment. We were left to our own devices and needed to figure something out quick as it was beginning to get dark outside and was also going to rain. We tried for about an hour to move the couch the conventional way by just carrying it up the cement stairs. However, this did not work because we simply weren't strong enough and couldn't lift it over the walls so that it would fit through the stairs. Sliding or dragging the couch was impossible because the material it was made of would be completely wrecked sliding on cement. At this point we were growing very frustrated and needed to think about a new strategy. I took a few minutes to rest and calm down when I had an idea. During our move we used many large tarps in the U-Haul to keep my furniture nice and protected, so I figured "why could we not use this to keep the couch protected against the cement?" I decided we should next wrap the couch up in the tarps and lay it down in a way it could safely be slid and pushed up the stairs. Once we were able to do that, it became much easier of a process. I was put on the lower end and was pushing while my mom was at the top using the tarp corners as a way of pulling it up like a pulley system. Eventually, we were able to safely move the couch into my apartment with no further damage to it. One thing I have always tried to do in everyday life is to find ways to work smarter and not harder. In this scenario I used this motto to think outside the box to find a new and easier way of completing this task as the conventional method was likely impossible in this case. Having this mindset has greatly impacted my life because it pushes me to try to find new ways of accomplishing everyday tasks in order to find the most efficient way of doing things.