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My internship at Coprodeli was a very interesting and challenging experience. While working at Coprodeli, I assisted with English and Theater classes at Coprodeli's St. Agustin of Hippona, St. Vincent, and St. Miguel schools. For two weeks we also assisted with classes at one of the schools in Patacutec. However, because of a conflict with schedules and transportation, we did not continue at the school in Patacutec and instead decided to work solely at the three schools in Callao.

For the theater classes, we worked with the teacher Robert in many different capacities. We conducted warm ups to get the students energized and focused for the day's lesson, helped students develop improvisational scenes and with memorizing lines for scenes they were given. During each class the students were split into groups to work on scenes and after twenty minutes of development and lecture each group would perform, then Robert, Joey and myself would critique the groups on their performances. Helping with the theater classes was by far the easiest and most successful part of our duties in my opinion. At first it was difficult to get the kids to feel comfortable with some of their activities. Many of the students were in awe of meeting someone from another country and in the beginning were so afraid to make mistakes in front of us that they were scared to do the activities. Our other challenge was getting the kids accustomed to using their imaginations. Many of the exercises were unfamiliar to the kids but once they became more comfortable with our presence and what we were asking, the kids progressed beautifully and things went a lot more smoothly.

Contrary to my expectations, the English classes proved to be much more challenging than the theater ones. Many times we were asked to take over the English classes by ourselves, which was difficult because the terms for grammar were not the same as in the U.S. and it was

often difficult to determine what the kids knew and didn't know. Another problem was that each class only met once a week. This did not allow enough time to advance far in the language, peak the kids interest in the language or ensure that the students retained what they learned. I do however believe that our efforts were not in vain. I did see improvement in many of the student's English during my time there even if it was not as much as I had hoped. I think teaching the English classes helped the most with my own fluency. I had to be very creative when trying to explain concepts in the English language using only an intermediate vocabulary, but getting through that task enhanced my speaking abilities in Spanish.

The greatest of our efforts were devoted to helping direct Hippon's production of the play Don Juan Tenorio that was performed for Corprodeli's 21st anniversary celebration. This was by far both the most rewarding and most challenging aspect of the experience. We encountered many challenges along the way, such as inconsistent communication between those in charge and getting the kids to memorize their lines in a timely manner. Many of the students had issues at home they had to deal with and compounded with schoolwork there was not a lot of time left to focus on the production. Also, practices did not start on time, which was daunting for me not only because I am a person who is in the habit of starting things on time, but also because Joey and myself had to leave at a certain time everyday to ensure that we returned home safely.

During those times when practice started late we were not able to get as much done as we wanted to before it was time for us to leave. It was also challenging sometimes because there seemed to be no consistency in the rehearsals and how Robert, Joey and myself handled problems. The actors were so used to us being friendly that they did not always respond well when they had to deal with us being authoritative. When problems occurred it was sometimes hard for me to decide if I should just go with the flow and experience things in a different way or if this was really a problem that needed to be addressed. When making that decision I learned to go with my gut instinct and I believe that overall I made the right calls. I realized that the kids were not

going to like everything I did but what mattered was that I knew it was the right thing to do and I believe the kids respected me more for it in the end. I must admit there were times with the seeming chaos when I was unsure how things would turn out, but we kept up the morale and in the end the hard work paid off. I beamed with pride when I saw how all the elements came together on the day of the show. The kids remembered all their lines and all of the critiques that had been given to them during rehearsals, the costumes and musical elements were flawless and we had a great audience.

Overall, I believe this internship was a huge success. There were many challenges faced, but through them all I feel that I learned a great deal about problem solving, communication and organization. Corprodeli got a lot of feedback on how they can improve their programs and their relationships with their interns in the future. I believe it was a great learning experience for all involved and I would in fact recommend this internship to others; it is sure to be an experience they won't forget.