Critical Thinking Journal #2

Paul Coelho is a Brazilian lyricist and novelist. He is the recipient of numerous international awards, amongst them, the Crystal Award by the World Economic Forum. The Alchemist, his most famous novel, has been translated into 80 languages (Wikipedia). Coelho knew he wanted to become a writer when he was a teenager. Coelho’s parents did not approve of this decision at all, they eventually sent him to a mental institution and he escaped three times before being released at age 20. He then enrolled in law school and forgot about his dream of being a writer. After a year of law school, Coelho dropped out and became a hippie. Coelho published his first book in 1982 which was Hell Archives. The Alchemist, is known as his most successful book and it is a story about a young Shepard who follows his spiritual journey to the Egyptian pyramids in search of a treasure. Since the publication of The Alchemist, he has written one novel every two years. His quote, “The world is changed by your example, not your opinion,” means that actually doing something and experiencing it shows a lot more than having just an opinion on it. In this quote, Coelho is saying that you cannot change something, or have an impact by just having an opinion on the matter, but rather lead by example so people can see it is correct. This reflects his own life experiences because his parents disapproved his dream of being a writer and sent him to a mental institution because they believed that their son wanting to be a writer was essentially crazy talk. Coelho spent time in the mental institution and while doing so decided to go to law school to gain his parents’ approval. Even though he attended a year of it, he did drop out and finally pursued his dream of writing. His behavior shows that nothing will change just by speaking about it, your actions need to match your opinion on things. This quote shows that if he had not pursued his dream, nothing would have changed and he being a writer would still be looked down upon. My own personal observation of this quote would be when people have an opinion on something, and then one person does something to prove that it is true or false and not just an opinion based topic. For example, if you want to change as in maybe an issue at work, your opinion is not going to do anything, you need to take action and show why you’re correct on that issue and why it should be changed. A personal example I experienced was at work, I was not responsible for feeding a patient who was in his room because I was responsible for feeding all the patients that were up in the dayroom. The other CNA’s were to be held responsible to feed any patients that were still in the bed. One of my patients did not get fed at all, so when I found out, I went and reported it to the nurse like I was taught to do in any situation. The next morning when I went in for my shift, I was called into the office and given a write up because he did not get fed. Instead of just running my mouth saying that it wasn’t fair, I waited until Monday when the Director of Nursing was back and asked to speak with her about it so that I could explain why I felt that I was falsely disciplined and that my write should be thrown out. It was not fair that no other CNA was disciplined for the situation.

Works Cited

"Paulo Coelho." *Paulo Coelho; From Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia*. N.p., 2015. Web. 9 Dec. 2015.