

**Essay Question: What is the most important lesson you learned while working at the theatre that you think will help you throughout your life?**

While I learned many things at my time at the theatre the most important thing In my time at the theater, I have learned many valuable life skills, with communication being the most important. Working at the theater required me to manage upset guests, navigate conflicts with coworkers, and effectively communicate my needs with management.

Each of these forms of communication presented a unique challenge and came with its own learning curve, but the theater provided a great environment to develop this skill.

First, I learned to handle guests who were not always kind with their words or actions. This experience taught me how to stay calm and handle tense situations with grace, a skill I believe will be valuable throughout my life in diffusing conflicts.

Second, I learned to communicate effectively with coworkers, especially when we had different viewpoints. This was not my favorite lesson to learn, but it was necessary. I had to set aside my own opinions to understand their perspectives. I learned that we don't have to agree to get along; everyone is entitled to their own feelings. Not only did this skill help me with communication but it also helped me be more sure of myself, I was entitled to my own opinions and my own thoughts allowing me to be more confident. This skill has already helped me in school and in building relationships, as it not only helps to diffuse situations but also prevents them.

Lastly, I learned how to communicate my needs with management, which was the most challenging aspect for me. I always strive to do my best, stay busy, help wherever I can, and maintain a positive attitude. However, I struggled to ask for help because I wanted to be the person who could do it all. I realized that I couldn't do everything on my own and had to learn to ask for help. It was okay not to know everything, so I began to communicate more openly with my managers. This approach allowed me to learn more, do more, and even earn a raise. Though it was the hardest part of communication for me to learn, it was the most vital. This skill will help me communicate my needs effectively in school with professors, and in future jobs.

I have held this job for most of my high school years, and it has taught me many valuable lessons. Overall the most important skill I have developed is effective communication, as demonstrated in this paper.

Communication has significantly improved my life and will continue to benefit me in the future.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to learn this skill at a young age, before college, as I believe it will help me throughout my life, and I'm glad to take away this value from my time at the theater.