**Professional Conduct**

Name

Course

Professor

Date

The main reason I could not attend the class was due to an issue with a broken serpentine belt in my car. The moment I turned on my car, I heard a squealing noise which I ignored since I was so intentional in attending the class. After driving for about one mile away from home, my car stalled and could not start again. I, therefore, had to wait for another hour for a tow truck to my vehicle to the mechanic. By the time I had finished sorting the issues, I had spent a lot of time, and the class was already over.

The main barrier that prevented me from attending class was the breaking down of my car. This is because my car was my primary means of transport to school. Therefore by it breaking down, I was unable to attend class. However, the situation was made more complicated by the car breaking down while I was on the way to school. Had the car broken down while I was still at home, it would have been easier since I would have quickly sought another way to get to class without worrying about leaving my car. The secondary barrier that led to my failure to attend class was the late arrival of the tow truck, which wasted a lot of time. This is because I had to wait for over an hour for the tow truck to arrive since it was far when my car broke down. Had it not been for the tow truck is far away, I could have managed to get to class even though I would have been a little late.

The barrier is real since I would have made it to class on time without breaking down my car since I was already on my time. Also, the barrier of the late arrival of the tow truck was a significant drawback since if it had arrived on time, I would have been able to make it to class even though I would have been slightly late. The barriers I faced are not a justification since I was on my way to class when the unfortunate event of my car breaking down happened, which significantly shows that I had no plans of failing to attend class. I would have attended it not for my car breaking down. Therefore, I believe that my barriers are real and not just a justification.

Since the shortcoming I experienced had a significant effect on my professionalism, it is paramount to put into place measures to avoid such an occurrence retaking place. I could avoid such an occurrence by ensuring that my car is regularly serviced and checked by the mechanic to reduce the chances of such faults taking place. In the unfortunate event that my car breaks down again, I will source for a tow truck that is within proximity rather than waiting for the one sent by the mechanic, which may not be close. Another good way of avoiding such an occurrence again would be using other more reliable means of transport such as taxis when attending the mandatory classes.

Since I have owned my car for quite a long time, another solution would be upgrading to a newer, more reliable vehicle. The reason for getting a new car is because the car I own is notorious for breaking the serpentine belts, especially when they have higher mileage numbers. Therefore to mitigate the possible consequences of the car breaking down, it would be better to upgrade to a newer and more reliable car. However, this option will be pretty expensive, which means I will have to put in more work to be able to afford a new car. I may accomplish this by putting in more work hours or looking for additional alternative sources of income.

I consider myself to be a professional. One of the reasons I believe I am a professional is because I am committed to my career and studies. Commitment is one significant indicator of professionalism, especially in my career (Ibrahim, 2020). My level of commitment can be seen by how I was committed to attending the class that I left home early enough, and were it not for the car issues, and I would have made it to class on time. Another sign of my professionalism is proper time management. This can be seen from my leaving home early to make sure I make it to class on time.

Another sign of my professionalism is my act of owning up to my mistakes. This is because it shows my level of responsibility and integrity. If I were to argue that I attended the class despite being a lie, it would significantly taint my professionalism. Also, by owning up to my mistake, I can learn where I went wrong and mishandled things. For example, in my case, I made the mistake of relying on a tow truck that was far while I could have called for another one that was close by and saved a lot of time. Therefore by being able to identify my mistakes, I will find ways to do better next time, for example, finding a closer tow truck that will help save time. I also consider myself a professional since I do not have the habit of missing classes. This is the only class that I have failed to attend, which was a result of unavoidable circumstances.

Missing a mandatory class has dramatically affected my levels of professionalism. This is because the compulsory class plays a huge role in my overall performance and career development. Therefore, by missing the class, I missed a lot of knowledge that the lecturer taught, which may affect my performance and career. However, I still believe that there is a chance of redeeming my career. All I have to do is make sure that such an event never occurs again and that I attend all my remaining classes, both compulsory and non-compulsory. Also, I plan to create time to read what the lecturer taught during the class that I missed so that I do not affect my performance and, ultimately, my career.

In most cases, unprofessional conduct results in punishment. For example, in a work setting, the failure to report to work severally may result in termination of employment. In a school setting, the inability to attend a given number of classes for a specific unit may lead to a student failing the unit. However, I believe whether a punishment is issued dramatically depends on the nature of the unprofessional act committed by the student. A scholar known as Marshall argues that punishment is not completely necessary for any unprofessional action. He argues that issuing the punishment is based on the level of the unprofessional act committed (Hand, 2021). Therefore I believe that the unprofessional act committed and the reasons for the action should be considered before punishing a student. For example, if a student has a habit of regularly missing classes for no good reasons, the student should be failed on the unit. If no effort to change is made, the student may be discontinued from attending the institution.

**References**

Hand, M. (2021). On the necessity of school punishment. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1177%2F1477878520907039>

Ibrahim, L. (2020). Experiences of Professionalism Attributes among Undergraduates Nursing Students and Nurses. Retrieved 11 November 2021, from.