Diverse Audience

Saturday, August 25th, I attended the local Farmer’s Market in Mount Vernon and Aurora. At the Farmer’s Markets you may purchase anything from fruit and vegetables that are in season, plants and perennials, jams, jelly, fresh baked goods, to homemade crafts, and soaps. With some of the vendors you are able to request specials items. Being that there are several Amish communities around us, there are several homemade Amish items for sale as well. But on the down side, there were quite a few tables that I avoided due to them looking like it was people who just was selling junk to make a few dollars.

I communicated with several different people. One family that I spoke to for a while in Aurora was Amish. I noticed that when they spoke to people, that they were very polite, and took a lot of pride into their religious beliefs. I enjoyed how everything is homemade, with elbow grease. They don’t drive cars or have electricity. I was speaking to the mother and she mentioned that they are very independent. That the kids help with everyday chores.

I noticed that probably half of the people at the Mount Vernon Farmer’s Market took selling very seriously. They “marketed” their items to the person they talked to. They gave the history of how it was made, and exactly where it came from. When they did this it seemed like the person they were talking to pay a lot of attention and ended up buying something. However, I also did notice that a great number of people, didn’t really matter what the race/ethnicity or religion was, that they usually hesitated when it came to shaking hands.

I have public anxiety, so communicating with people at the Farmer’s Market was very hard for me. So a lot of the communication that I paid attention to was observed. One thing noticed was how diverse the local community was. I learned that there were a lot more Amish and Mennonites around Mount Vernon than I thought. I also have gained a lot more respect for them. I also learned from going to the Farmer’s Market that a lot of people take pride in growing their own fruits and veggies.

I know that this report was about communication, but I have a really hard time communicating with people due to my public anxiety, so I tried my best.