

Reflection

To complete this reflective writing piece, I will be incorporating Gibbs reflective cycle, which according to (The University of Edinburgh, 2020) is a form of reflection that is most famously used, that takes the writer through six different stages of exploring an experience, description, feelings, evaluation, analysis, conclusion and action plan. This model was first introduced in 1988 by Graham Gibbs. This was to bring a more structured approach to learning from experience.

The topic of this reflective paper is a group video that was made on a wicked problem, explain it and try to come up with a solution to it. I had always been apprehensive when it came to public speaking so when discovering this assignment, I felt my anxiety rising. The assignment was to be completed by working together as a group to create a video talking about the problem, this was the first time that a group project had taken place. A design thinking approach was also to be used. A design thinking approach is a 5-step process that allows a person to provide a solution-based approach to problem solving, these stages are empathize, define, Ideate, prototype and test (Interaction design foundation, 2024).

At first glance, I did not know how this was going to be completed. I felt that it was unfair to expect part time students who only saw each other once a week and had such different work roles and life schedules to undertake such a task where a lot of communication and sharing of information would be needed. Over time, that feeling started to dwindle down to nothing and the feeling of worry and stress grew about how the group was going to work together to fit everything in, as well as using design thinking to complete the video. Looking back now the task is complete I have realised that there was nothing to worry about as there was no conflict within the group.

As a whole the group worked very well together, as it happened, the group managed to meet up a few times outside of university hours and regularly spoke through teams and text to keep everyone up to date about any research, to keep everyone on track, to ask questions and at times to reassure group members that everything would be ok, which for myself was very helpful. The only bad moments would be the times where one or more group members could not attend a catch up, neither in person or on teams for whatever reason and then the rest of the group would not want to move on or make a decision without them in fear of causing confusion or the feeling of leaving a team member behind. To solve this issue, it was decided that flipping a coin was the best outcome to get the fairest result.

I think after the video was finally completed every member of the group felt some sort of relief that it was finally over, as a group we had to figure out different problems and how to work together even when we did not see each other often. It made us find out more about each other and ourselves. Personally, it felt rewarding that I had gotten over my initial feeling of resentment towards this assignment and makes me hopeful of future group or single video presentations. I felt that I had worked hard to get the best outcome that I could at that given time. I spoke as clearly as I could while giving the information in a respectable manner.

After the video was complete, I can confidently give a detailed analysis of the task at hand. I can now say with confidence just how serious these wicked problems are, especially deforestation and palm oil which is what the video was about. As our job roles are heavily

influenced with education, we wanted to link our solution to palm oil, deforestation back to schools and how we could get children across Wales to get involved to help us tackle the serious problem. As a group involving the children and looking to their rights, it was important to us that we included them. Children have a right to education and as a group that is what we wanted to incorporate within our video (Children's rights Alliance for England 2024). These problems are a vicious circle and without some serious intervention, they can cause huge effects on the environment. This assignment made everyone think diligently and in a conscientious manner the entire time the video was being made. Through the whole process of creating the video I think that some more group sessions in person might have helped as then the ideas presented could have been looked at in a greater depth. More complex ideas could have arisen and been brought to the table and in doing that would have encouraged more forward thinking in discovering new ways to solve the problem. As well as that more time could have helped as every member of the group had different events on at different times as the assignment was given over the easter holidays and the fact that the group wanted to work as a group as much as possible it felt like we were on a more restricted time scale than everyone else on the course. The expectations, roles and responsibilities of work and home life hindered the time that the group had so a lot of the research was done individually and then shared out.

Looking back on my participation within the group I felt that I worked with a lot more focus when I had a fellow group member with me, and I could ask questions and bounce ideas off. During group discussions I got involved with coming up with ideas for the video and participated in gathering research for all members. While working by myself I was particularly interested in how I could get as much information into my section of the video as I could. While I think I did that however, I believe that more could have been done to improve. Throughout writing the script for the video the feeling of doubt was prominent in my mind about how I hadn't done enough research and that I was letting my fellow group members down. If this situation was to present itself again I would make sure that I had a clear outcome of goals of what I wanted to reach to provide a higher standard of work.

In conclusion I have learnt more about the effects of deforestation, just how many products contain palm oil and the effects this has on the UK and the rest of the world. I've learnt that to work effectively in a group where the outcome is a beneficial piece of work takes a lot of time and complete focus on the task, it also requires you to get to know how the other group members work and how they process information. Looking back now I have realised that I did not allow myself the time needed to efficiently and affectively write the script in correspondent to the clips shown on the video. Going forward if another video was to be done either as a group or individually I will make sure to organise my time into a more structured approach. I shall undertake in more reading and research about what is being required and in regards to learning in class about the given topic, I will be sure to take extra notes that I can then refer to withing my body of work. In future I will change my attitude towards any group work as I now know that it is possible even with such different schedules. Whilst going through the process of design thinking I will participate in more research into the individual sections to hopefully work through them more confidently and come up with better results. Depending on the topic of conversation I shall improve on how I bring any background knowledge into the discussion and how we can target the work to improve a better and

brighter future to the education of children. I will take any feedback on board on how to improve any aspect of work.

Reference

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