

University of Wales Trinity Saint David

Course: Business and Management

Module: Learning and Collaboration for Global Citizenship

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Task 1: Study Objectives

Objective 1: Improving my presentation confidence

Setting clear study goals is important for supporting my academic development and helping me become a more effective and independent learner. For this task, I have chosen two key study goals that are important for my progress at university. These goals will help me improve areas I find challenging, while also supporting the skills I need for my Business and Management degree and my future career goals. The first goal focuses on improving my confidence and ability when delivering presentations.

Improving my confidence in presentations is important because this skill is used throughout my business and management degree, especially in assessments that require communication and professional delivery. Strong presentation skills are also essential for my future career goals, as many roles in the technology sector, including those at Microsoft, require clear communication, confidence, and the ability to explain ideas to others. Currently, I find presentations one of the most challenging parts of university, mainly because my confidence drops when speaking in front of others. This makes developing this skill a key priority for my academic and personal growth. Research supports the importance of building presentation confidence. Bandura's (1997) self-efficacy theory explains that believing in your ability to perform a task increases your actual performance, meaning confidence plays a key role in successful delivery. Communication studies also show that preparation, rehearsal, and feedback significantly reduce anxiety and improve clarity (Van Ginkel et al., 2019).

This goal also links to my Honey and Mumford learning style, as I am a Theorist who prefers structure and clear steps. Using a SMART approach will support this. Specific: improve confidence and timing. Measurable: weekly practice and feedback. Achievable: using structured preparation. Relevant: needed for my degree and future career. Time-bound: improve by the end of the year.

Objective 2: Strengthening my digital skills

Developing my digital skills is an important goal because digital literacy is essential for success in higher education and in modern workplaces. My Business and Management degree requires frequent use of platforms such as Moodle for accessing materials, and Microsoft Word and PowerPoint for completing assignments and presentations. Strengthening these skills will help me produce higher-quality work and stay organised throughout the semester. This goal is also relevant to my future career goals, as roles within the technology sector, including companies like Microsoft, expect strong confidence in using digital tools effectively.

Research highlights the importance of digital literacy for academic success. JISC (2015) explains that digital skills support effective learning, communication, and independent study. Beetham and Sharpe's Digital Capabilities Framework also shows that students who develop strong digital skills are better prepared for modern workplaces. This research supports my goal of improving my digital skills to enhance both my academic performance and future employability.

To support this goal, I have created a SMART goal. Specific: improve my confidence using Moodle, Microsoft Word, and PowerPoint. Measurable: complete at least three LinkedIn Learning or university-based digital skills courses. Achievable: these tools are accessible through the university and can be practised regularly. Relevant: essential for my degree and future career plans. Time-bound: achieve this improvement by the end of the academic year.

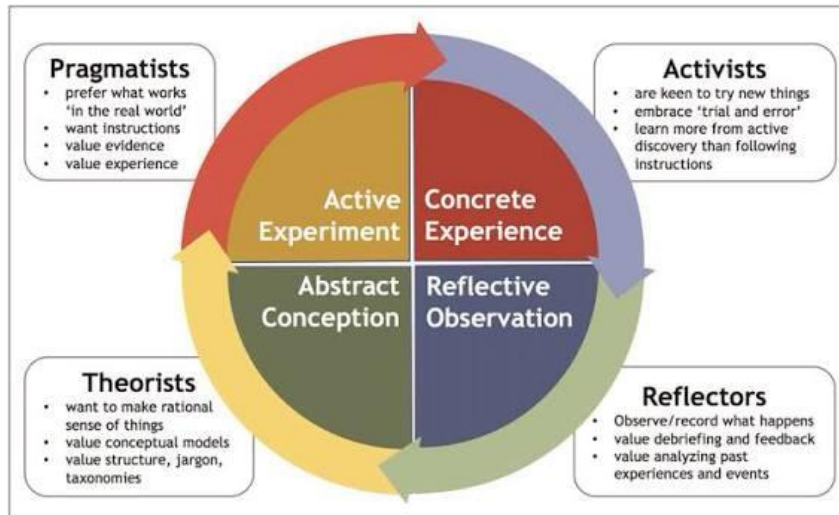


Figure X. Kolb's learning cycle and Honey source: Honey and Mumford (1982).

Blog Entry 1: Understanding my Learning Style

Understanding My Learning Style

When I completed the Honey & Mumford learning styles test, the results immediately made sense to me. I found out that I am mainly a Theorist, but I also show Pragmatist traits in how I learn.

How this influences the way I learn

A Theorist prefers structured, logical, and well organised information, which fits the way I learn because I usually study by reading, researching, and looking for clear explanations. I also related to some Pragmatist traits, as I learn more effectively when I can apply ideas to real situations and understand how they work in practice. My study habits reflect both styles, as I usually learn by reading and researching topics in depth, and I often use examples or videos to help me understand ideas more clearly.

Challenges I experience in my learning

One challenge I still experience is presenting in front of others, because even when I practise beforehand, my timing often changes once I start speaking. This may relate to being a Theorist, as I prefer structured and predictable tasks, while presentations feel less controlled and more spontaneous, which makes me more nervous. Honey and Mumford (1982) suggest that understanding our learning style can help us recognise our strengths as well as the areas we need to develop.

Reflection and personal development

Overall, learning about my style has helped me understand why certain study methods work best for me and what I need to focus on as I continue my development at university.



Figure X. Notebook and pen representing in source: Savitskii (n.d.), Dreamstime.

Blog Entry 2: Adapting My Independent Learning.

Developing Independent Learning at University

In this blog, I will reflect on how I plan to adapt my independent learning based on the results of my Honey & Mumford learning style questionnaire.

Using My Learning Style to Guide My Study Approach

As a Theorist, I learn best when information is structured, so I plan to organise my study sessions with clearer steps, weekly goals, and more detailed notes. To support my Pragmatist side, I will also look for real examples and practical applications of what I am studying, as this helps me understand how theories work in real situations.

Strategies I Use to Support Independent Learning

I also aim to use more visual resources, such as diagrams and videos, as these help me process information more clearly and connect different ideas together. To help me thrive in my learning, I benefit from clear instructions, practical examples, and regular feedback, as these make it easier for me to understand expectations and stay motivated.

Reflecting on My Ongoing Development

Presentations are still a challenge for me, so I plan to improve by practising my timing more and breaking my content into smaller, structured sections to feel more confident and prepared. Adding these strategies into my routine should help me stay more organised and consistent throughout the semester. Honey and Mumford (1982) suggest that adapting

learning strategies to suit individual styles can support academic development. Overall, understanding my learning style has given me a clearer idea of how to approach future modules and build confidence in my independent learning.



Figure X. LinkedIn professional networking source: Global Reach (2021).

Task 3: Professional Identity and Community Participation Plan

Developing a professional identity and actively taking part in organisational and business communities is an important part of my personal and professional development as a Business Management student. In today's digital and globalised environment, employers increasingly expect graduates to show professionalism, networking ability, and engagement beyond academic study. Research suggests that developing a clear professional identity and engaging in career-related activities can significantly enhance graduate employability and career readiness (Yorke, 2006). This task outlines how I plan to create a professional identity and engage with relevant business communities to support my employability and long-term goals.

A key platform I intend to use is LinkedIn, as it provides opportunities to build a professional profile, connect with industry professionals, and engage with business-related content. LinkedIn enables students to display their skills, experiences, and achievements while also learning from organisations and professionals across different industries. Actively using

LinkedIn can help students develop professional networks and improve their visibility to potential employers (LinkedIn Learning, 2021). By keeping an up-to-date profile and engaging with relevant content, I can begin to develop an online professional presence that reflects my interests in Business, Management, and the technology sector. Alongside LinkedIn, I also plan to engage in university-led activities such as group work, networking opportunities, and employability events to further strengthen my confidence and professional communication skills. Combining online professional networking with active participation in academic and business communities will help me develop a strong professional identity that supports both my studies and my future career progression.

In addition to online networking, I also plan to engage with employability and career development opportunities available at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Carmarthen. This includes attending careers and employability workshops, guest lectures, and activities linked to the Business and Management course that support students in preparing for internships and future employment. These opportunities will help me develop professional skills such as communication, confidence, and career planning, which are essential for my long-term goal of pursuing a career at Microsoft. Research highlights that engaging in employability-focused activities alongside academic study enhances graduate confidence and career readiness (Jackson, 2015). By actively engaging with both academic and employability support at UWTSD, I aim to strengthen my professional identity and better prepare for a future role within the technology sector.

To further support the development of my professional identity, I also plan to reflect regularly on my progress and adapt my approach where necessary. This will involve reviewing my skills, finding areas for improvement, and setting short-term goals related to networking, communication, and employability. By reflecting on feedback from lecturers, peers, and employability activities, I can better understand how I am progressing and what actions I need to take next. This reflective approach will allow me to take greater ownership of my professional development and ensure that I am actively working towards my long-term goal of pursuing a career at Microsoft. Taking time to evaluate my progress will help me remain focused, motivated, and adaptable as I continue my studies at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Carmarthen.

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