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Reflective Report

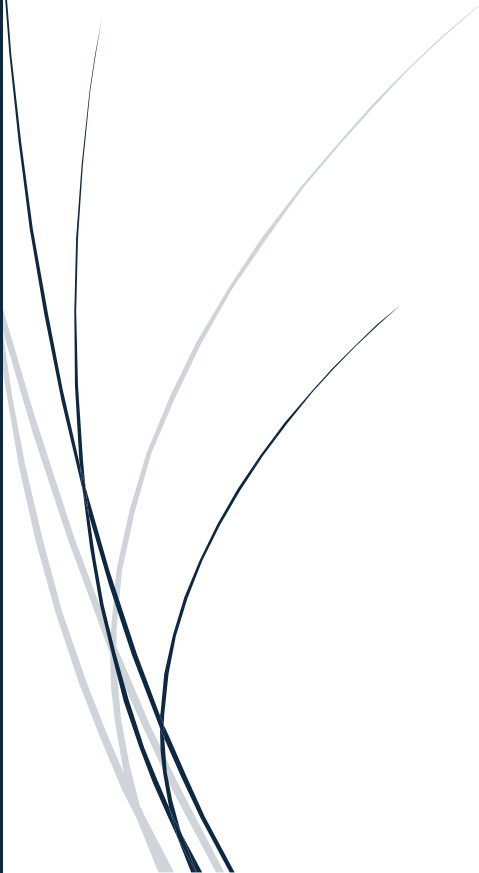
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Reflective Report

A reflective account is one in which an individual looks back at what happened, why something happened in a particular way, what were the reasons, what were the effects, how the event could be addressed differently, and what actions could be taken next. In this reflective report, Gibb's Reflective Model will be applied in the context of my learning of three important skills that I believe I must excel in to see myself working professionally as an investigative journalist (Ryan and Ryan, 2013).

Skill 1: Research skills

Since I aim to become an investigative journalist, finding information based on a proper research methodology bears huge significance. This is because evidential information and its expression are completely dependent on what source the information comes from and what methodology is used for collecting the information (Hamilton, 2016). In the case of investigative journalism, the main challenge is to establish the reliability of the presented information because the source is not straightforward and the information is not usually available in a plain format. For example, as a part of my academic project, I decided to perform an investigation on rising impersonation scams in the banking context. I found that no information is as plain as a statement when the investigation into a criminal activity is concerned. Rather, I found that it is necessary to start from scratches of available facts and figures, trace them to their previous level, and finally discover the truth from the ground (Sambrook et al., 2018). Various logical operations such as induction and deduction are also major issues to focus on. Interestingly, before attending this course, I had no idea that investigative information collection is so complex and requires a clear blueprint before proceeding. I had to struggle specifically when following a lead from one source to its immediate previous source. Where information collection from the internet was concerned, I had little difficulty (Bradshaw, 2013). But when following the leads from one individual to another in the impersonation scam, I could not progress much. Now I intend to focus on some classical successful case studies that can guide me further to my next mission.

Skill 2: Summarising information

Investigative journalism is always characterised by a plethora of evidence, both written and oral. It is never wise or feasible to publish everything an investigator discovers through appropriate research mechanisms. Therefore, the importance of summarising information into a compact form becomes essential (Marzec-Stawiarska, 2016). For example, I have gone through some of the investigative reports published by Hindenburg Research. One significant feature of the reports is that they are compact yet articulated. This is only possible because of the art of summarising bulks of information into the main theme. When summarising the collected information for my impersonation scam project, I discovered that various links were closely interrelated. It means that the summary must take into account discrete events, which makes the task more challenging because the relevant connections must be made in the summary account (Wiles et al., 2016). During the project, information summarisation appeared more important because there was a word limit for the report. It means that everything collected must be presented very compactly. My supervisor gave me the feedback that I did quite well (only I know how difficult it was for me as a beginner), but he also detected and informed the areas of improvement. I was glad that my first attempt did not fail drastically. Hence, I am really positive that I will perform better next time. Meanwhile, I need to keep performing the summary account preparation for other diverse sorts of journalism areas. More precisely, I have a plan that after my graduation, I will be engaged as an internee in any reputed public welfare research organisation to better understand and enhance my abilities.

Skill 3: Reflection skills

Equally important in the field of investigative journalism, reflection skills bear a great deal of significance because, in every step of the investigation, the chances that previously discovered mysteries and new facts require fact-checks and the discovery of newer information makes it obligatory to reconsider additional issues related to the phenomenon that were not in the picture previously (Boud et al., 2013). It indicates that reflecting on past phenomena becomes essential to establish the relevance of the present ones. For example, when I started working on the impersonator project, I did not consider the fact that some scammers used the phones of random

pedestrians so that they could not be directly traced. Hence, whenever new information is available, it becomes mandatory to put it into the picture retrospectively. I tried to do the same. This, in consequence, gave me more clarity and helped me consider the links between these apparently discrete events more closely (Coulson and Harvey, 2013). Moreover, this assignment is overall helpful in highlighting my current position as a learner to evaluate my reflective skills. I find that I am still struggling in efficiently reflecting as I got the feedback from my supervisor. I have a plan to get myself used to studying more about the process and practices of efficient reflection. I have decided that I will initially use research papers and textbooks so that I can be appropriately guided. Alongside, practising this art through various other projects and academic involvements will help me I expect (Clarà, 2015). Nevertheless, I need a fairly long time to converge all these skills separately so that I can apply them altogether in another project which I expect will be better than the previous one.

Future Plan

My career plan is to be an investigative journalist, I am planning to receive education and skills both academically and socially. For example, I am searching for innovative investigative documentaries and movies that will help me think and decide more creatively and in an informed way. Besides, my attachment to other academic and extracurricular activities including attending seminars and workshops will continue.

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