

UNIVERSITY OF WALES TRINITY SAINT DAVID

Course: BA Business Management

Module: Community Engagement

LCBB4002

Year1, Term1

Assesment 2

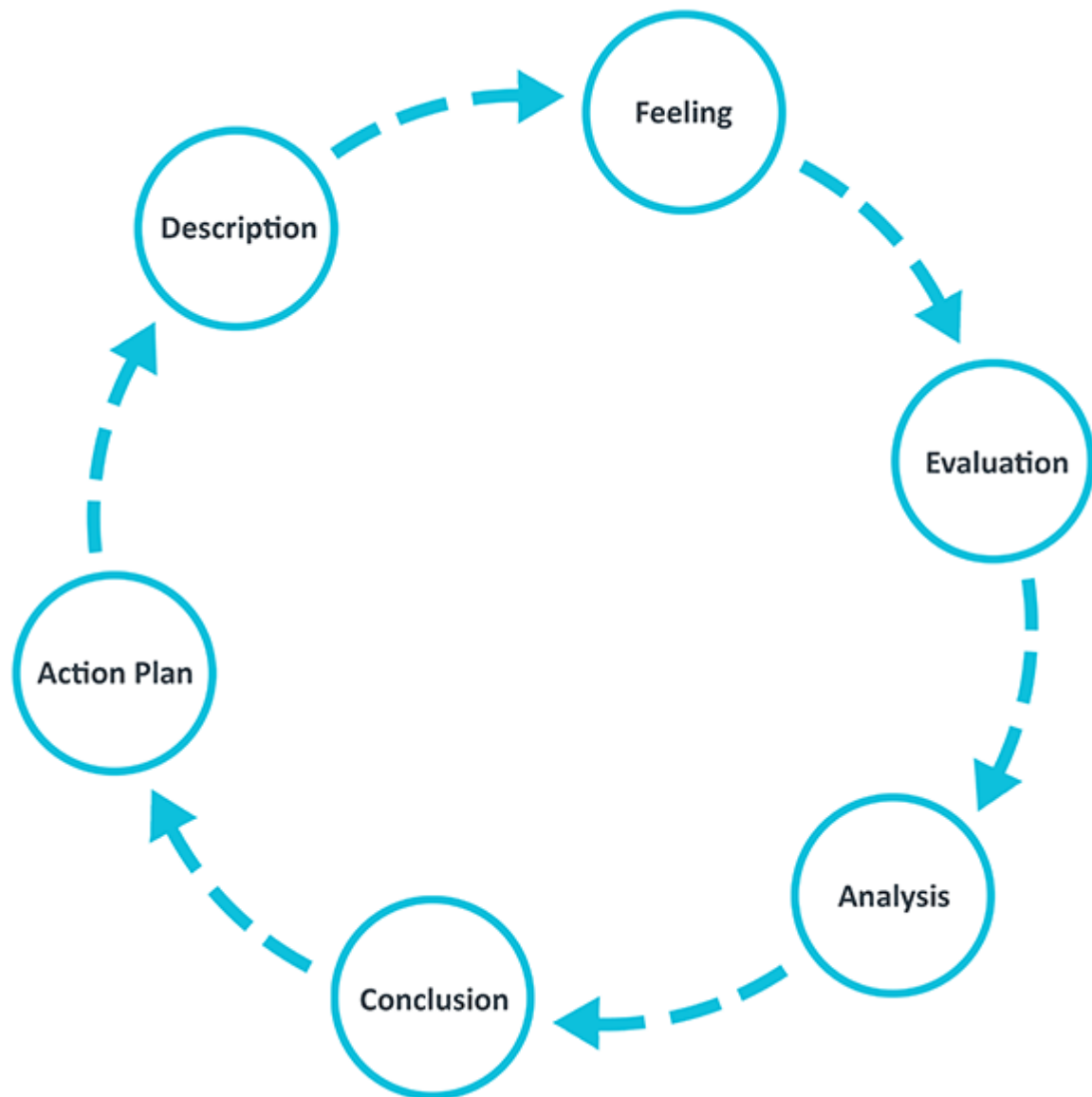
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Lecture: Tanja Nathan

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Gibbs G (1988)

Description

I am currently studying a business management course at the University of Wales Trinity St David in the London Campus. We are in the first term familiarising ourselves with a new programme and study routine. This current term we are undertaking three subjects as such as Academic Skills, Fundamental of Accounting and Community Engagement. Starting a university

journey at the age of 40 is not being an easy decision. After spending 15 years in the UK gaining experience in different areas and fields, it felt the right time for an educational course. I have had experience in various area and fields. However, my passion is always the business and everything related to it. I like to read and watch educational videos when it comes to business.

Furthermore, was offered a place in Trinity Saint David university it felt rewarding. If it was an exciting first-day meeting all new colleagues and some of the university lectures, it was a very challenging beginning of the term due to all arrangements. In week three, the lectures already started giving us further information about the end of term assignments. As part of one of our assignments, we had analysed a business or company of our choice. I have chosen a large fitness operator called Pure Gym. We had to write in details about the company portfolio and the strength and weakness. The project involved detailed information regarding the business and area of operation too. As part of our project, we had to undertake a role in the company. The job within the project was to manage one of the busiest branches based in central London. It is a role that requires using a critical reflection regularly even though it doesn't come naturally to many managers. (Gray,2007) Once we complete the written part of the assignment, we had to play a scenario where we resolve a current problem arisen in our workplace. There were much planning and practising involved. When the week for presentation finally arrived did not feel there was enough time for preparation. We had to take turns in pairs where one of us while presenting the partner will be giving feedback. And reflect afterwards on our work with writing a statement(Hayler and Price 2015)

Furthermore, when my name was called, I felt nervous but had to quickly play the scenario in the head before starting the presentation. My partner was ready to make notes. Our lecturer was observing and taking notes to give us feedback later on. The room was quiet and everyone was concentrating, and everything felt different.

Furthermore, it seemed like a moment until the lecturer asked me to stop because the time was up. Immediately it was clear that it did not present as expected. All of my colleagues were very patient and supportive. Keeping quiet during the presentation and not making remarks after. Even though I felt that the outcome should be better, it was a good and positive experience. To learn how to speak in public and handling emotions.

Feelings

Before the presentation, I felt very relaxed and positive. Even though I made some changes last minute. When the lecture entered and everyone was silent and mentally prepared for the RolePlay, it seemed that the mood changed. During the first presentation, suddenly all the confidence has disappeared, and the thoughts of doubts rushed into my head. I thought that maybe the last-minute changes would reflect on my presentation skills. I have decided to maintain calm and relaxed. I wished that it was as easy as it sounds. When my name was called, everything changed. I felt nervous and lack with confidence. The critical emotions rushed into my head and could not remember the exact changes in the presentation. As soon as I started, it felt like a second until the end.

Furthermore, when I finished, I was relieved. I could relax and reflect on my performance. Even though it was a different experience for me gave me the confidence to explore new areas. It was not a very successful presentation but gave me enough courage for the next time. I also realised that building confidence would come with more practice.

Evaluation

At the time of starting the project regarding Pure Gym was not very clear about the aspects of the operational system of the company. Moreover, about the job role of the managers within the business. It felt choosing this role was the right decision at the time. Finding enough information online it was not a very difficult task. However, discovering more about the role of the manager and running a club daily it was not as easy. Trying to plan and describe a problem that a manager could face was challenging. The presentation experience was very positive in every aspect. Learning how to speak clearly and confidently. Convincing the audience that you are personally part of the scenario. Presenting the role logically and excitingly. I felt much more positive after speaking to my other colleagues about the experience. They all felt the same way. Because this was our first presentation from the beginning of the university. Looking back now, I should have approached the situation differently. Maybe trying to keep it simple and not make any last-minute changes. It appears that most students feel the same way during the presentations. Several people commented that my

presentation went well. However, other people suggested that I should make more eye contact next time. Furthermore, using all the critics to self evaluate.

“Critical persons are more than just critical thinkers. They are able critically to engage with the world and with themselves as well as with knowledge”
(Barnett,1997)

Analysis

The overall presentation went well. I think that are many areas of improvement. The situation was made worse by my feeling for not being able to control my emotions. I have spent many hours watching videos online regarding presentation skills. Perhaps I should have emphasised more on a verbal practising. My approach will be very different next time. They are several things that my colleagues have acknowledged and will impact on future experience. Starting from the begging of the research process to planning and finally presenting. Everyone in my class has done an excellent presentation, managing to overcome anxiety and fear. There are many skills and practises to learn and implement the next time. Some people were using acting skills very well, playing the role of the two people involved in the scenario. Others were very confident and kept looking into the audience, continually keeping attention and eye contact with the rest of the group. Others did not think about the result which in some sense had a positive impact on the overall presentation skills. I had to reduce the time for my presentation long before was due. Another area of improvement is part of the planning. Never make any changes last minute. It does not give enough time to practise and create the right speed. The timekeeping is another area of improvement.

Keeping everyone engagement by changes in your voice and not trying to avoid eye contact. These all factors that reflected on my presentation. The overall mood in the room did not really help due to everyone feeling scared. And not be able to hold the emotions. I will share loudly about being fearful about the outcome of the presentations. We were lucking with positive energy amongst us and that had a negative impact during the role play. Many factors contributed to the outcome of the presentation. Learning about how to research and outsource information — the influence of other people. The support of the lecture could have a positive impact o the experience.

Furthermore, reflect on the results. To share with other colleagues about the experience and their approach towards overcoming the feelings, asking about the way they are preparing for the assignment. Trying to be more vocal and not fear to ask questions and share experience.

Conclusion

The overall student experience is very different than expected. Even though i have done research online did not have the chance to talk to other students currently studying in the university. In retrospect would do several things differently next term. I will engage with other students and share my feeling I will be spending more time on the university campus and in the library. In regards to the presentation, they will be many changes that I will implement. Alternatively, try a completely different approach next time. You have to identify the areas of improvement and start with small changes. It is all about learning and the process is long and different for everyone. Being professional and consistently will enable you to develop in a new area. I will be making changes to the current approach and study routine. I believe that the overall experience has a very positive impact on my personal and professional development. Experiencing difficulties is part of the journey but the results can be very satisfying. Being able to reflect is an essential part of the process of development.

Many students enjoy assignments containing reflective writing because they allow them to think critically about their development and practical progress. Reflective reports also develop a capacity for critical reflection on professional performance. This is key to developing ethical practice in a wide range of field. People who have experience with reflective writing are better able to reflect on their day to day practice, and they also can summarise. (Ivory,2020)

Action Plan

From this experience, there are several things that I would do differently next time. I would make a plan for reading and preparation and ensure there was enough time before the presentation for practice. (Cottrell,1999) In future, I will work with other colleagues more closely. I will ensure that I build strong relations with everyone in my group. I am planning to ask the lectures for help and feedback when writing my projects. I have already spoken to my lecture about my presentation and regarding the areas of improvement. I plan to research and take online courses regarding an effective presentation.

Furthermore, I am also planning to spend more time in the library during the breaks. I will have a plan in place once the new term starts how to spread the work evenly. The experience made me realise that I need to gain more confidence in presenting, and I creating an action plan will have a positive impact. Create a supportive environment to talk confidentially about any problematic cases and benefit from the knowledge, experience and ideas from others doing similar work.

Appendix1 seebelow

References:

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Peer Evaluation Role Play Feedback Form

Name of Presenter IVANKA NIKOLOVA Date 02.12.2019

Activity: Role play

	Poor	OK	Good	Excellent
Introduction (Explanation)				✓
Presentation (practical demonstration)				✓
Conclusion (how well can you carry out the activity?)				✓

Any other comments

Ivanka presented her Role Play very well. She had a ~~good~~ well structured Explanation. She was a little nervous, but this did not affect her presentation.

Signed: V. Vasileva

Date: 02.12.2019

