



REFLECTION ON THE PROCESS OF
MAKING A GROUP VIDEO
PRESENTATION (AND VIDEO LINK)

CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES: MAKING A
DIFFERENCE.

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Reflection

As Dewey (1933) states, “we do not learn from experience... we learn from reflecting on experience”. Therefore, I will use Gibbs’s (1988) reflective cycle model to reflect upon the group video assignment, to gain an understanding of further improvements that can be made to my future work.

Description

The task was to create a mini-Pecha-Kucha style video presentation in a group of four, with everyone contributing at least two minutes to the video presentation on a ‘wicked problem’. The first step was to choose whom to work with. I had noticed in previous assignments three others in my tutorial group who are as motivated as I, in getting their work done. Naturally, I wanted to do well and complete this assignment on time, so I decided to ask them if I could join them in forming a group. This supports Bandura’s (1971) “self-efficacy” theory that what we observe has a direct impact on the outcome of a situation.

Our first group meeting was online, via Teams, for half an hour to suggest any initial thoughts or ideas. We then set a date and time to meet in person a week later to discuss things properly, choose our idea and devise an action plan. One of the group members set up a WhatsApp group so we could communicate with each other easily throughout the project. We met regularly, once in person and four times online, throughout a two-week period to complete the task by a date on which we all agreed. We all finished our individual pieces of work in time to put them together on that date and we were able to finalise the video, thirteen days before the submission deadline. This left us all with plenty of time to write our reflections on the video presentation and finalise our other assignment which had the same deadlines.

Feelings

When I first met up with the group in person, I felt nervous and apprehensive, especially as it was at the University library which is a place I’ve only visited briefly once before. However, within ten minutes of getting there and meeting everyone, I felt at ease with them and excited about our project. We got to know each other a little bit and then started to chat about ideas for our project. Meeting in person allowed for “clear, concise communication” between us all and limited distractions from our families or other commitments (Carr Workplaces, 2021).

Evaluation

We were all respectful of each other's opinions and were flexible when outlining a plan of action for who would do what. Everyone was willing to take on an equal share of the workload and between us, we came up with an action plan and timeline for completion. We leaned into each other's strengths and used them to push things forward, we all helped each other with anything we were stuck on or unsure of. There were no arguments or heated disagreements, we all wanted to get along and do the best for our group.

Tuckman (1965) proposes that there are several stages a group will go through when working together; whilst our group did seem to go through the "forming", "norming" and "performing" stages, we appeared to skip the "storming" stage as there were no apparent conflicts within the group.

Analysis

I came away from the face-to-face meeting with a clear idea of what I needed to research and when the work needed to be completed. We had agreed to keep in touch via our WhatsApp group and the next meeting was agreed to be online to set up a team group on Canva. We also needed to decide on backgrounds for our slides and figure out the best way to create them. After a brief discussion, we decided to do individual templates and merge them together into one video at a later stage. Two of the other team members had previously figured out how to do this and after they explained what they had found I was confident in following their lead.

We had another online meeting a few days later to check that everyone was on track to meet our target date for putting the video together, this meeting also allowed for any questions about the content and allowed us to double-check that we weren't duplicating each other's work, as we wanted each slide to follow on from the last and for all the individual pieces to fit nicely together.

Our final meeting was significantly longer than the last few online meetings as we had to get everyone's work in the correct order; as well as choose and upload background music and add our referencing slides. As mentioned previously I got a little frustrated with my home internet connection during this meeting and this can be a common problem with the efficiency of online meetings (Mizen, Taneja and Bloom, 2022). In hindsight, it may have been easier if we had met up in person to do this part of the task; although there is no guarantee that this may have made the process any quicker (Mizen, Taneja and Bloom,

2022). However, my team members were very accommodating, they reassured and helped me where possible.

Conclusion

Overall, I am very pleased with how our presentation came together. I think it helps to have like-minded and equally driven team members to get tasks completed efficiently, and to a good standard, as “some Team Role relationships have better prospects of success than others (Belbin, 2010). I feel that we all communicated well and adopted roles within the team that kept everything on track for success. Belbin (2010) also suggests that “appointments to jobs need to take account of interaction between key individuals and team balance”; similarly, we all played slightly different roles within our team, but we shared the same end goal. We were all respectful and helpful to each other making it a pleasant experience for all involved.

Action Plan

I had a few internet issues and plan on changing my service provider before next term to hopefully improve my internet connection, as this was causing me some frustration and I was conscious of upsetting or annoying my team members. Fortunately, they were all very understanding and patient. I would quite willingly work with this team again in future, as Belbin (2010) states:

“It makes good sense, as in sport, to keep a winning team. The members will not only have learnt to understand one other but their morale will have been reinforced by success. There is little point in changing a team unless there is a good reason for doing so.”

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Video link

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