

Reflective account 1

Having studied various theories relating to learning styles I am finding now as a mature student that my learning styles are changing, this might also be due to experience within the workplace and management roles I have undertaken. However, as a learning type, I best respond to one that involves most of my senses as in kinaesthetic. As I look deeper into my own style of learning if using Gardner (*Howard Gardner frames of mind, 1983*) as an example, I fall heavily into both Intra and Interpersonal styles, this again may be due to experience and maturity. I am self-aware, confident, self-motivated, while at the same time can motivate others and offer advice after actively listening to others needs.

Building Surveying is my second career after a full career of 35yrs in public service working with all social strata in many different and demanding environments. My passion for learning added to an existing passion for buildings and historic architecture made my choice to study building surveying an easy one. Having the ability to join my husband's business and work in this environment is both exciting and rewarding in equal measure. I have a strong personality and need to communicate with others but recognise that in my newly chosen career I need the technical knowledge to make this communication effective and to ensure information I am giving is correct. This has been a little frustrating as it takes time and experience to gather the information. I have a great deal of knowledge that has been gathered during my previous career but still feel a vulnerability in terms of building surveying and technical expertise. I feel this is a good thing as my personality will not allow me to 'wing it' as I have a strong sense of ensuring the information I give is correct, as my professional integrity and that of my husband's business is at stake. Professional reputation is paramount when working as a small business and one that sits very neatly into Malsow's *Hierarchy of Needs (1943)*. In order to achieve the basic necessities of life (physiological), water, food and shelter, work needs to be sourced in for payment in order to purchase for these basic requirements. When work security is a constant threat, is it possible to progress to the next level, Maslow would argue not.

In terms of my own knowledge I have found whilst engaging in my building surveying work-based project, I am at the bottom of Maslow's hierarchy of needs, working on the

very basics that allow me to survive. Although I am not certain I cannot move up to the next level within the hierarchy of needs as my relationships are already well developed. Working at this level has come as a steep learning curve, having been at the top of triangle in my previous career, moving back down can create some inner turmoil and uncertainty. Returning to student status as a mature adult is a very humbling experience. The need to take time and build solid foundations of technical knowledge and experience to support the areas already developed, make me wonder sometimes if it is something I really want, as the older I get the need to succeed is not so great. I need to keep reminding myself, it is important to learn to walk before running, which I find can be frustrating at times.

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Abraham Maslow, 1943 Theory of Human Motivation

Frames of mind, Howard Gardner 1983