

Reflective Report: **Returning to Education as a Parent**

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Reflective Report: Returning to Education as a Parent

Introduction

As a parent going back to school has its ups and downs. In this report, to show how this journey played a part in my growth, I will be sharing my experiences using Gibbs' Reflective Cycle. I will explain the stages of description, feelings, evaluation, analysis, conclusion, and action plan.

Description

I needed to focus on improving my academic skills of time management, critical thinking, and communication. So, I decided to enroll in a high school. What really helped me to practice research and writing skills was the course I took which involved weekly classes, assignments, and group projects.

Balancing my responsibilities of both coursework and parenting were really challenging. My days were all about school runs, chores, and helping my kids with homework. Completing all these tasks while also trying to study. All these were physically challenging to cope with at first, but the course helped me learn how to manage my time better. It was also emotionally

challenging going back to school after a long time, and this made me question my abilities and whether I could engage in discussions again.

Feelings

For the first few days, being back in a classroom made me anxious. Because I felt intimidated competing with students younger than me. However, I felt the need to set a good example about the values of learning for my children.

As the course went on, I became more confident. And the support from my instructors and classmates made me feel more comfortable in class. There were unpleasant moments, where assignments would clash with family duties but what felt satisfying was completing tasks. I had mixed feeling of excitement and fear, as each new lesson came with its own chances for growth and along with challenges.

Evaluation

The course had many strengths because it was made for adult learners, so it had flexible deadlines and resources for various learning styles which really helped my development. The instructors gave really helpful tips because they knew and understood my situation as a parent. The environment was a collaborative one and it made it possible for me to meet and connect with others in similar situations.

However, some areas needed improvement. Areas like the course speed felt too fast sometimes it made it hard to fully understand complex topics. Additionally, group projects were challenging because my classmates had different schedules, and they lacked good communication skills.

Analysis

The whole experience made me understand how important time management and communication are for balancing various tasks. What helped me manage time much better was using planners and setting realistic goals. Effective communication with my instructors and family was important in carrying out my academic and personal responsibilities.

As a parent, the skill of being adaptable and resilient helped me both personal and academic challenges as I got used to dealing with unexpected challenges and I began to see obstacles as chances of growth.

My understanding of educational values deepened with the journey I was so anxious of in the first place. And it also became clear that my studies were not only for my own benefit, but it also inspired my children to value learning and trust the process.

Conclusion

Reflecting on when I decided to start this educational journey, it makes me feel proud of the progress I have made and the skill I developed along the line. As a parent, going back to school was not so bad and is not something anyone should not be ashamed of, because it

was a significant growth in my personal and professional life. I gained a new sense of purpose and an appreciation for the power of educational knowledge and skills.

My academic abilities have been strengthened in the course of this educational journey and it has also strengthened my commitment to my children's education and the whole process of growth. The process of growth shows persistence, and it serves as an example for them.

Action Plan

To continue building on my skills, I plan to:

- **Set Clear Goals:** Define realistic, specific and achievable objectives for my education and career.
- **Maintain Balance:** Give strong attention to all responsibilities ranging from course work to family and not neglecting any of them.
- **Seek Support:** Ask for assistance from instructors, peers, and family when needed.
- **Keep Learning:** Look for more opportunities and courses to further education and skills.
- **Reflect Regularly:** Continue using reflective practices to keep a score board on my progress and adjust to use new strategies when the need arises.

The above plan would help me continue and keep track of my educational journey with consistency, determination and confidence and also being an idol for my children. The path may not be easy, but I will be committed to facing and overcoming challenges along the line.