

Skills for the Workplace

Module Assignment Submission

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Statement of Confirmation of Authenticity

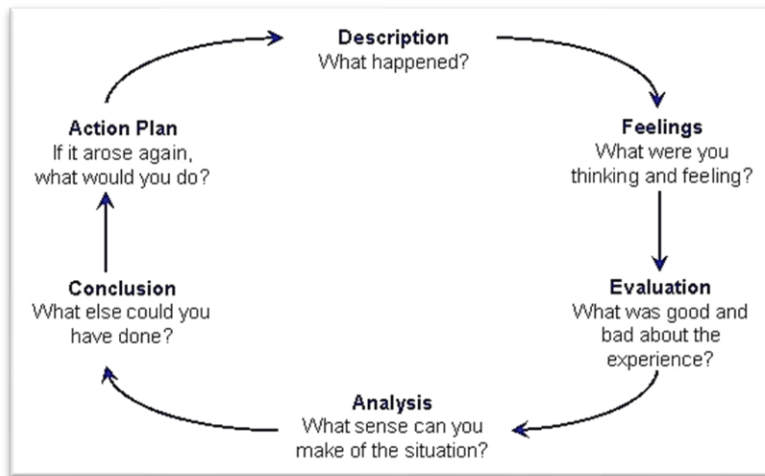
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Part 2: Reflection on Skills developed during the Business Plan Project



Gibbs (1988)

2.1 Description

In this module our assignment was to learn how to examine and evaluate an idea and present an appropriate business plan to produce to a bank for any small business we wanted to create. I decided to design a business plan for a small healthy/ plant based alternative mobile food van located along Swansea's (SA1) bay seafront area, that I named The Green Falafel Co.

Within this assignment I have learnt a lot of new and interesting things about designing, evaluating, examining and presenting an appropriate businesses plan.

I have gained understanding and knowledge that I did not have about these topics, enterprise, entrepreneurship, and the differences between them. As well as learning that an entrepreneur is a person who sets up a business or businesses taking on financial risks in the hope of a good sustainable profit.

I have also achieved some knowledge about enterprise, I have learnt that enterprise is an organization that is created for business ventures for any entrepreneur.

And that an Entrepreneurship is the process for entrepreneurs and a route to self-employment, being your own boss.

In one of our class sessions we completed The Enterprise catalyst Questionnaire that we took part in, this was a great session that gave me some understanding and feedback on my own personal enterprise catalyst such as: Enterprise style, Encouragers, support and obstacles, team

roles and personal and training skills, I found this helped me realise and understand other weaknesses that I was aware of.

I found I have very solid foundation of motivation, self-belief, and a willingness to learn and change, these are some of my core qualities that will underpin my success in life as well as help me with my studies, if I maintain this level of motivation, self-belief, and willingness to do well. Sometimes I lose my full motivation because I get frustrated and over whelmed with my studies and general life but I try hard to push through and notice my weaknesses and turn them around and use my frustration as advantages to keep me going , achieving and do well within all aspects of my life, my studies on this course are a way of improving opportunities in my career for myself and my children, which is very important to me. Having a fairly strong belief that I can and will make things happen will help me learn and succeed to create the type of lifestyle I want, as you can't rely on luck to bring you want you want in life it's as much about effort and intelligence , these qualities of mine I will use as much as I can to build the foundations of mine and my families futures, as well as using them to do well and achieve success within my assignments and course.

In my personal learning and thinking skills I have found my biggest strengths are Reflective Learning where I show a good understanding of my own strengths and limitations, Team working I am quite comfortable working in teams and getting together with other people, which is a great strength when it comes to my ability to collaborate and work together with other people. Self-management is another strength of mine, which enables me to organise and take some responsibility for my own learning and development.

I also found weaknesses within my personal learning one being Independent Enquiry skills, where I have interest in learning and solving problems, but I do struggle with staying focused. Creative learning, I do not really view myself as particularly creative in many ways, this does not affect my learning right now but could in future learning, as well as effective participation where I need to identify what else I want to do and stimulating me to get involved in other things.

In other class sessions we learnt about business identities and what they mean, I think it is very important to know and understand business identities. I learnt a lot about the identities of different types of businesses identities there are, and which one would be best suited to my business plan for this module. after achieved the knowledge of the different types of business identities there were i decided my business was best suited as a limited partnership. Ideas for our Business name, logos and USP was another session where I learnt what USP standards for- (UNIQUE SELLING POINT!!) which is so important as it determines your uniqueness as a business and what you can offer that is different from the other businesses. I have gained knowledge in areas; I did not have or understand and know the importance of including a Unique Selling Point to my business plan. We have also learnt new skills in conducting and successfully setting up and running a business, skills such as enterprise, profit and loss, target market, financial aspects, revenue and pricing strategies, market research skills, marketing objectives and research which has helped me with my Market analysis and Competition within the industry we created our business plans as well as pricing strategy and operations.

2.2 Feelings

I was very interested in this module as I have had a small amount of knowledge in creating a business plan, with Business Wales many years ago. I did however feel quite overwhelmed and struggle with the financial sections, as one of my big weaknesses would be maths, I feel I spent a lot of time working on all the financial cashflow, cost table, costs, and pricing charts etc. Time that could have been spent on other parts of my business plan. I feel really need to get some advice on what courses there are available to help me improve my maths skills to tackle my time management skills. I have gained knowledge in areas I did not have or understand and know the importance of within Entrepreneurs and complete business planning which will be put to great use in the future, I am happy to be learning and achieving new skills to help improve my future.

2.3 Evaluation

I felt quite excited about this module and the knowledge I've gained in marketing revenue and pricing operations and entrepreneurship I'm quite happy, although I was nervous as I want to as always achieve the best, I thought I had quite a bit of knowledge of creating a business plan from past experiences, but I soon realised there's so much more I didn't know or completely understand, such as unique selling points and their massive importance of them and how it is used within a business and also how the current covid 19 pandemic and us leaving the EU it has changed so many things within business industries. In the future I will use all the knowledge I now have gained and more by undertaking more research within the business industry and put it to use if I do go down the road of successfully becoming an entrepreneur and managing my own business.

2.4 Analysis

Creating and presenting this business plan has made me open my eyes as to how much has changed for many businesses in the current climate were in at the moment, with the covid 19 pandemic and coming out of the EU has made me think a lot more about entrepreneurship and whether setting up a new business right now wouldn't be a good idea, but I defiantly think in the future when things change, and start to get better after we recover from the pandemic, it is something I would like to do and go down the road of being an entrepreneur. and set up a small alternative plant based mobile food van family run limited business. Who knows what the future holds, but firstly I will need to improve my weakness in maths and gain skills to help with financial side of my business?

2.5 Conclusion

In my conclusion I have learnt different strengths and weaknesses in things I did not know, I have found that I have weaknesses within enterprise such as creative learning , effective participation and independent enquiry where I can struggle to stay focused sometimes, So when this happens I need to identify other priorities and not lose sight of things that interest me and that help me stay focused on the task ahead, but make sure I devote enough time, attention and energy to solve the problems inherent in producing good assignment work and achieve the best exam marks.

I have learnt that I could have tried harder to stay and be focused on the whole of the business plan and not just the financial side. I know to do better I need to stay more focused and not get distracted and overwhelmed by things like maths, cashflow charts , pricing and costs etc , I spent too much time getting anxious over doing the financial side of the module , this weakness is something I don't want to let affect my future work , so I want to turn this weakness into a strength which will create better opportunities for me, I will be looking into a course suitable to help me gain better maths skills, that will not only help me in my university course studies but also help me with future job opportunities.

2.6 Action Plan

My action plan after gaining all this new knowledge about and understanding about enterprise and presenting a business plan, When I do decide to be an entrepreneur I am going to need to improve and widen my skills within maths and enterprise skills and tackle weaknesses that could cause treat to my future learning and future job opportunities and turn them in strengths that with therefore gain opportunities for me.

And with my new findings about myself from taking part in the enterprise catalysis, in our class session having found I have a very solid foundation of motivation, self-belief, willingness to learn and change, reflective learning and self-management skills these are some of my core qualities that I will use going fourth that will underpin my success in life as well as help me with my university studies, if I maintain this level of motivation, self-belief, and willingness to do well. My weaknesses within creative learning where I don't really see myself as a creative person, I can turn into a strength and use this in other future assignments and tasks, I would of liked to design a logo for my business and this is where my weakness got the best of me, to stop this becoming a barrier and to stop it happening in the future I will take time to consider what creativity is and how it could be used to benefit myself and my work especially within my computer skills as we are still studying via teams. I plan on working hard now at changing these weaknesses and turning them into strengths that could create opportunities in the future.

References

Gibbs, G. (1988) *Learning by doing; A guide to teaching and learning methods*. London: FEU

<https://www.enterprisecatalyst.co.uk/>



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