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REFLECTIVE REPORT
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**INTRODUCING THE
MODERN WORKPLACE
(LCBB4003)**

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Gibb's Reflective Model

In 1988 Graham Gibbs developed an expanded cycle of Kolb's reflective model of experiential learning. His model would dissect the experience into 6 distinct analytical segments and debriefings from different self-reflecting perspectives. Furthermore, the scope of this model is to structure the reflection of the entire process and learning experience (The University of Edinburgh, 2020). By using his model, this report will reflect upon the entire period and on everything that has occurred during the execution of the university assignment.

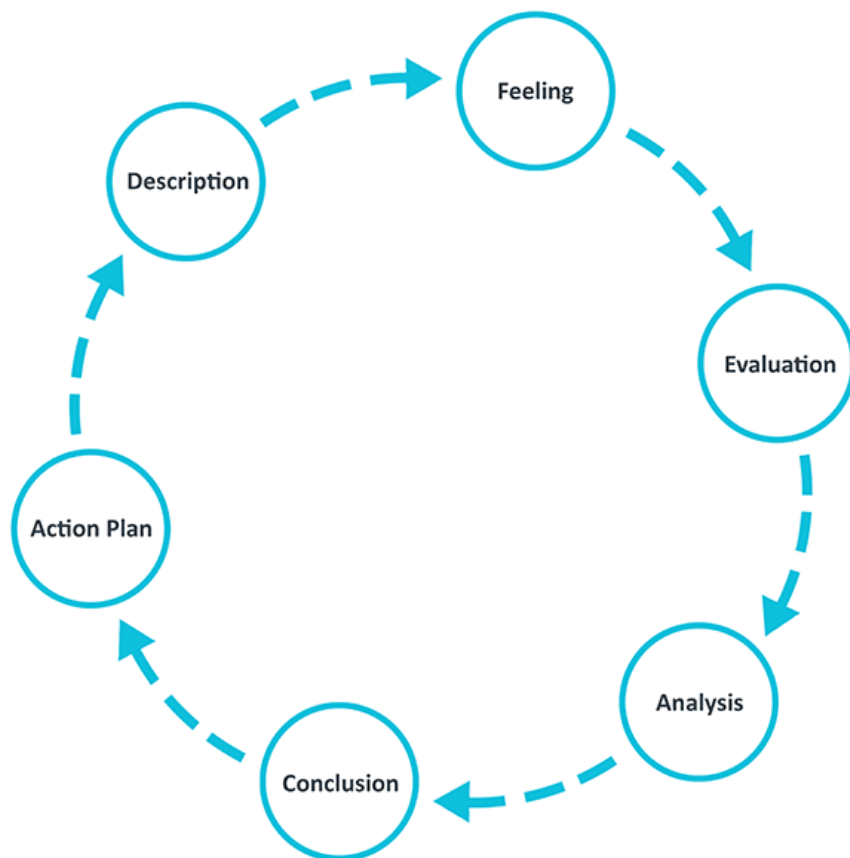


Figure 1- Gibbs' Reflective Model

Description

During this term in university, we were assigned a task to prepare a group presentation on a company of our choice. We had to organise ourselves into groups of four to five students and try to decide which company should we work on. In addition to that, divide each topic of the presentation between us. A team was quickly formed between me and 4 other students and as soon as we agreed on it, we started discussing possible companies for the presentation. Two offers were on the table; Microsoft and Nvidia. The team ended up voting for the former. We also divided each topic of the presentation between us and agreed to keep in touch and update each other using WhatsApp. Before we left somebody mentioned that we would need to select a group leader that will assemble the presentation and submit it before the deadline. Without a contest, we all agreed that one of my colleagues can do with the practice and we appointed him as the “designated driver”. During the weeks we would exchange relevant information on the company between us and keep a steady pace of completion. When all the slides and information were ready and sent to the group leader for the final assembly, he contacted me and asked me if I had any advice or things, I would like to change to the first draft of the presentation due to my previous experience with presentations. We ended up exchanging ideas on the overall design and we changed and improved several things. After it was approved by all the members of the team, we picked a day to do a mock presentation and see how we can further improve it. We made several minor adjustments and agreed that we had completed the task.

Feelings

As soon as the assignment was announced that it will be in small groups, I became excited, because I would get to work in a team with some of my colleagues that I enjoy spending time with even outside of university. Despite that, I also felt a slight distress when the thought, that several people will not make it to the group due to the total size of our friends’ group, occurred to me. Being asked to join a team made me feel confident because I was aware that I was not chosen only because of our closeness, I was also being picked for my knowledge and experience. Recognising that in me, assured me that in this group we value each member for who they are and how can we balance each other out. Later this came in handy when we were revising the draft of our presentation, which further inspired me to do my best for the group. Overall, knowing the members of the team for some time made the experience a lot more pleasant for all of us.

Evaluation

One way people gain knowledge is through experience and challenge. Additionally, another way to challenge this would be the way we perceive something that has occurred. Supported by the old saying, “Glass half full” (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.) a person can choose to see the positive in the situation and gaining knowledge and experience is one thing that is valuable to me. Furthermore, improving my relationship with my colleagues was a great outcome that I did not predict. Lastly, the relaxed and approachable nature of the group leader made this task feel like a quick distraction than a chore.

Analysis

Examining the entire experience from a bird's eye view I detected several instances where issues might have arisen if particular conditions have been met. For example, during the leader election moment, none of us was particularly willing to be a leader since we all have been previously, and this could've caused a destabilisation. Another issue that also appeared was the overall design of the presentation. I detected this weakness in our group and offered our leader my help which he accepted. From previous group presentations, I gained enough experience to be able to efficiently analyse the situation and counteract a negative outcome.

Conclusion

In general, it can be concluded that working in a team can be extremely beneficial, but it can also have its pitfalls if one is not careful during each stage of the task (Carnegie Mellon University, n.d.). By dividing the task between us and communicating clearly, the assignment was completed faster and felt like less of a burden. Many have studied the positive and negative effects of teamwork and we just confirmed yet again the theory that working in a team was beneficial to all of us, it was time efficient and brought us closer. To conclude, if we had to weigh the benefits of working alone or in a team, the latter would have a lot more advantages.

Action Plan

By getting to this point of the report I have already examined and reflected upon the entire experience and have filed several important keynotes in the experience registry in my mind. Next time I find myself in a similar situation, during the leadership election phase if I don't want the position and someone else is elected, I will make sure they are aware of my skill level and if they find any situation difficult, I will offer them assistance and expertise. In addition, to prevent the situation from dragging on or picking an unsuitable leader, I will be more vocal in voicing my support for a particular person, instead of being just passive. To conclude, planning ahead, based on experience will be the difference between success and failure of a group project (Serrador, 2012).

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