



My Personal Learning Environment

Gabriella Jones- 2404975

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Introduction

As a student on this program, I aim to meet 2 objectives by the end of my three years of study. Firstly, I want to leave with a degree, preferably a 2:1. Secondly, I aim to grow confidence in my work and myself.

Leaving this program with a degree is an important objective to me as it will expand my skills set and develop my knowledge. Although I am currently unsure of what my future career looks like, obtaining a degree will enhance my employability across many potential career fields as business is such a broad subject. Becoming more employable will increase my success and earnings, which are factors I seek and value in my life. I have been raised to work hard in order to fulfill dreams and increase the quality of life, which is why these factors hold such meaning. At most I would like to achieve a 2:1 grade. This is important to my development as it is classed as over a pass and is evidence that I have understanding, knowledge, experience, engagement within business studies (business acumen), and willingness to learn. Research suggests that these skills and competencies are required within student graduates, and achieving this goal will provide me with these attractive skills.

Throughout my time in education, I have not been the most confident in what I produce and would avoid contributing out loud during lessons as I was afraid of delivering the wrong answer. However, during university I am determined to contribute as much as possible during lessons to increase my confidence, team working skills and presentation skills. Growing my confidence in both my work and myself through this program is an important objective for me to achieve as it will help me improve certain skills necessary to employment such as verbal and written communication skills, listening skills, and critical thinking skills. Completing all 3 years on this program will show myself I can perform well through determination and intelligence. This will improve confidence as I will feel a sense of achievement and fulfillment within myself and physical proof of

what I can accomplish. Research suggests that employers want to see communication, teamwork, problem solving, confidence and collaboration skills within student graduates, achieving this goal will provide me with these valuable skills.

(Marrow, 2022) (TargetJobs, 2023) (University of Brighton, n.d.) (Schinkten, 2017)

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Learning Tests

To understand my learning style, I carried out 3 learning style tests; Honey and Mumford, Myers Briggs, and VARK.

Honey and Mumford

The Honey and Mumford learning technique test was developed in 1986 by Peter Honey and Alan Mumford. The test provides participants with 1-2 of the best suited learning styles for them

The 4 learning styles are;

- Activist
- Theorist
- Pragmatist
- Reflector

(Mint HR, 2024)

After taking the test, I learnt I am equally a reflector and a theorist learner. Theorists act logically when it comes to learning and find facts to back up information can help their understanding. Theorists find instructions help them learn efficiently. Reflectors learn best by watching and observing before committing to a task. Reflectors find collecting information from different perspectives helps them balance out important and useful data to develop a better understanding (G, 2020).

I predicted I would not be an activist as I do not like hands on learning or groupwork as, personally, I find them time consuming and ineffective, I prefer individual tasks, then plan it out, research it and complete it through a structured operation which is why I am not surprised by results. Research also suggests reflectors do not like

deadlines, however, I find deadlines help me plan my work better and add productive pressure to meet them.

Results suggest I should learn by:

- Observing
- Feedback
- Coaching
- Applying theory
- Facts, figures, quotes

(Lea, 2019)

Myers- Briggs

Myers- Briggs Type Indicator was developed by Isabel Briggs Myers in 1943. The test provides participants with 1 of 16 different personalities based on if participants are a:

- Extraversion or introversion (E-I)
- Sensing or Intuition (S-N)
- Thinking or Feeling (T-F)
- Judging or Perceiving (J-P)

(Haslam, 2018) (Foundation, 2019)

I discovered I have an ISTJ personality. Introverts are reserved, they also tend to be good listeners, sensors enjoy linear tasks and focus on the present, thinkers are logical and make decisions based on facts, judgers prefer organization, and control. These results relate to me as I like structure, plans, check lists, routine and doing things on my own, at my own pace with verified information to back it up (Swift, n.d.) (Journal, 2019)

Results suggest I should learn by:

- Using real world examples
- Organizing
- Flashcards
- Review
- Feedback

(Live, 2024)

VARK

The VARK test was developed in 1987 by Neil Fleming. The test identifies if participants learn best through:

- Reading/writing
- Kinesthetic
- Visual
- Aural

(Broadbent, 2021)

The test suggested I learn best through reading or writing. This method is best for individuals who like to make lists, structure, definitions, clarity, and order. This is similar to my other results as it relates to planning and routine. I again agree with these results; however, I do find kinesthetic learning helpful where practical work is necessary. I also enjoy reading for pleasure, which may have an influence on results (Limited, 2020).

Results suggest I should learn by:

- Taking notes
- Making lists
- Textbooks
- Handouts
- Rewriting

(Cherry, 2023)

Learning plan

Considering this new knowledge, I want to create a personal learning plan to increase efficiency and quality of my work. Now I know I learn best through reading and writing and have an ISTJ personality I will rewrite information on to flashcards as a revision. I will have a solid study plan and reserve time for certain tasks. With this, I will also create a checklist of each deadline to help me keep track and feel accomplishment when crossing out completed tasks. I will ask others to give me feedback and review to gain clarity. I will also value facts, quotes, textbooks, and theories when conducting research as this will strengthen my understanding.

Organizational and Business Community Participation

Now that I have a learning plan in place and have identified how to optimize my learning, I also need to identify how I am going to participate in organizational and business communities and create a business identity. Networking in the business world and developing myself as a potential employee now will really help me once I finish university and fully go into the world of work. Getting involved in communities will help build business relationships and build my own reputation and confidence. Participating in organizational and business communities will help reach both of my aims as it will expand my knowledge, supporting me in leaving university with a degree, and will help build my confidence, through communicating and opening doors to potential career paths for me.

As part of my plan, I will use LinkedIn, a networking platform for businesses and professionals (LinkedIn, 2022). LinkedIn will be used to search for companies, events and professionals in my area and connect and engage with these profiles and accept invites to events. I will join groups on LinkedIn that relate to my interests and participate with members. Through having active engagement on LinkedIn, I can grow my network and visibility to attract professionals and businesses and expand my career goals (LinkedIn, n.d).

As part of my course, I am completing 'My Sustainable Leadership Journey'. This module will be an addition to my plan and help reflect, collaborate, and develop my leadership practices. This module will help create my business identity by boosting my critical thinking skills through discussing what kind of a leader I want to be, the importances of sustainability, and change and transformation within the world. Guest speaker sessions and community projects will also be part of this module, supporting my participation in organizational and business communities and exposing me to external professionals and knowledge, and encouraging me to ask questions and discuss with others, helping me reach one of my personal objectives.

UWTSD holds a skills week program that I am going to attend as part of plan. The event consists of workshops, talks and events to support career paths and strengths skills. The event also includes a LinkedIn session to help get the most of your profile and a professional photography session to create a profile picture. The program will

help develop my business identity and professional image, connect with professionals, and strengthen my work-based skills. (Union, 2024).

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I believe that understanding my learning styles, creating a learning plan and identifying how I am going to participate in organizational and business communities and create a business identity will all support my professional growth and help me reach my personal objectives.

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