

Reflective Evaluation

by

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Subject: Community Engagement;

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Abstract:

As a student for first year in UWTSD I have learnt to appreciate the time we are given and appreciated the importance of prioritizing the daily duties. In this report I will be describing my difficulties that I faced throughout week 9 and 10, what I did to overcome with it and lastly, how I managed to improve my weaknesses. One of the biggest challenges I have ever faced was organizing and planning my time in advance. Being a student is extremely responsible role and requires a lot of our time for developing our skills and knowledge. Dedication is the key here as being concentrated and focused on usual duties will lead you towards successful completion of the term.

“Investing in yourself is the best investment you will ever make. It will not only improve your life; it will improve the lives of all those around you.” - Robin Sharma

Introduction:

During the last 10 weeks I realized how quickly my behavior was changing and what impact it had on my personal life. The highlights of the first term were week 9 and week 10 – the most exciting, and at the same time the most stressful weeks during the semester. Thankfully, these 2 weeks helped me develop my organizational, managerial and presentational skills. This course plays significant role in my professional improvement and the benefit of joining it will push me towards my next carrier goal. Below, I drew a small timeline, using Gibbs’ reflective model, evaluating only week 9 and week 10 of this term as these two weeks were the most remarkable during the last 3 months, leaving a massive impact on my life.

Description:

→ Week 9: In this week we were prepared to present a role play scenario in Community Engagement as part of our assessment 2. The subject of the role play was based on the report of assessment 1 that I chose to talk about Coca-Cola's hydrologist. I decided to indicate what is the importance of hydrologist for a big corporation such as Coca-Cola and how this position plays a major role to the company.

→ Week 10: On Monday of week 10 we were meant to present our group report of Academic skills. The exterminator's team was formed of two people that we never met before. The day started very positive as everyone attended to class and we all were excited about the presentation. Each group supposed to talk about 10-12 minutes, roughly about 2-3 minutes per person. I was the representative of our group of five and this was the most challenging part for me this term. After numerous times trying to organize and unite everyone, finally we managed to prepare Power Point presentation. The slides were great tools for interacting our presentation and show the audience our primary research results displayed as graphs. The presentation went well, considering that two of my group members didn't handle to submit their parts of the report, however they decided to take part of the group presentation.

Feelings:

→ Week 9: On the day of the presentation I felt very calm and confident as I spend a lot of my time practicing and preparing for my role play. Choosing to talk about a role that is not very familiar to myself was a huge step that I considered very well. At first, I handed leaflets I created myself to give a better understanding to others of what my subject was. During my presentation I tried to speak clearly and make the information easy for understanding. The thoughts in my head were running fast which made me panic as I will not have enough time to present the end of my role-play. I was very anxious as I lost my time counting and will not be able to deliver all the information.

→ Week 10: In prior to the presentation we organized the order of all groups and the sequence of the presentations. Our group was lucky enough to be picked as first one. Everybody in the room was looking at us with stressed faces and rubbing their hands together in signs of cold. I didn't feel any of that stress. I was wondering why everyone looks so anxious and worried. Our presentation went well, I was proud of myself as I was the only person who wasn't reading from the notes in the whole class. I was very confident as I did all my research alone and I knew what I wanted to bring to the audience. I kept maintaining eye contact with the class and managed to show most of the figures of my questionnaire. We had time for conclusion before the exterminators informed us that time is over. We were all satisfied of the way we presented our topic.

Evaluation:

→ Week 9 As Thinking outside of the box I wanted to deliver a piece of information that would be fascinating to the audience. This is one of the less recognized jobs from the nations (Coca-Cola, 2018). The importance to choose that role was to ensure people understand the consequences if there were no people to look after the planet's water sources.

As per one of the interviews of Jon Radke (Coca-Cola's hydrologist, 2018) he clearly says how this job make his life different every day. I wanted to bring this matter into my role play and engage the class with more interesting facts that are around us, however we don't really pay attention to.

I spent a lot of time researching this role and the information I gathered was very interesting. If I had more time, I would have spoken longer as the job is unique itself, especially for eco-supporters, like me. However, the time was limited, and I did my best for providing most of the information to the class.

→ Week 10: Time management in week 10 regarding the presentation was the enemy for everyone because of the time slot between each person was too short for providing all information we managed to collect. 1250 word per person ideally should be better to get at least 6-7 minutes. The topics we all chose were very interesting for everyone and due to the time issue, we couldn't understand much about the research of other groups. The time was enough only to introduce your topic and briefly to explain what it is about. Therefore, this doesn't give any understanding to the audience of what your research is about. Moreover, the points we suppose to earn for presentation skills are not increasing because of the lack of time to present all information and demonstrate our confidence, body language and tone of the voice.

The good news is that we get marked individually, as it is a great opportunity for everyone to show the best of them and what we have learned throughout the term.

Presenting in a group helps the shy people be more open as they can make always an eye contact with other colleagues and make them feel more comfortable. (Thompson, M, 2019)

In my opinion, if we have abstracted all misunderstanding from the guidelines at first place, then the presentation would have gained a better success for everyone. This is a lesson that we need to take on board for future references. If an issue of this matter occurs again, we will be able to handle it and prevent any arguments regarding the assignments.

Analysis:

→ Week 9: The role play was an excellent experience that helped me evaluating my communication skills, in particular - public speaking. Part of my role play was the usage of academic language such as terms and phrases. This was the most difficult part I faced when I had to talk about the hydrologist position. Using academic terms on casual conversations is not essential and this is where I was struggling at home when practicing my presentation. Another ideal area for improvement that will help me developing my abilities in terms of public speaking. It is not natural for human-being to feel comfortable

speaking in front of public (Frances, R). Although, there are a lot of sources available today that could help people build up their confidence and make them successful when presenting in front of audience.

Overall, I believe my role play was presented well, as I briefly introduced the job position and what is its purpose. I was glad to have a partner who can honestly judge my presentation and could be impartial when leaving their constructive feedback.

According to my partner's feedback (Donegan, A.; 2019) attached to the appendices of this report, I was confident with good body language. The introduction was explained in detail; however, the time was not enough for concluding my role.

The time keeping was the only concept of my role play which I believe I didn't manage correctly. This is a good learning lesson that would help me improving my presentation skills in future, for instance how to manage effectively my time and how to become more acquainted with using academic language in my reports.

→ Week 10: I would love to express my disappointments and disagree with the official consequence from the directors that the 2 minutes time given per person was not enough to say even 2% of the report as there were figures of the primary research that needed more attention.

The misreading of the guidelines had a massive impact on everybody's performance. After long discussion with the teacher throughout the semester we decided that we will be talking around 6 minutes per person which was a better option. However, the week before the exam we received an email explaining that we have 10 minutes per group for presenting our report. It was shocking because the information I had at first place wasn't matching the information we were told by the teacher. The discrepancy in the communication put us in a position where we started doubting in ourselves and regretting for the choices we made in prior to the exam, such as not following the initial recommendations. This problem involved every class of the same module as well as the teacher's preparation for this assessment during the term.

I think as students for first year in university in different country than ours we were very incapable to handle this issue. We should have agreed to the original outcome of the guidelines and keep following it. This is where we failed because none of the groups had enough time to present their parts of the topic.

Conclusion:

→ Week 9: In conclusion I would love to say that If I had to go back and review my role play the only thing I would do differently will be the concentrating on delivering the information and not walking around the room hanging my leaflets to the audience. This is where my time counting went in wrong direction. In general, I enjoyed my research for this job, and I appreciated the presentation as it helped me build up my confidence when talking in front of public. If I could bring the time back and had another chance to choose a role to play, it certainly would be the hydrologist position.

→ Week 10: This will not be the first, neither the last group work. As a student I know that I will be involved in many group activities. Leading my group this semester was a small exercise of what will be demanded in future. I believe I did well, as I was well organized comparing to my colleagues in other groups. I maintained very good connection with all participant as well as the teacher. My main concept was to set up deadlines for everyone and ensure they follow my plan. Unfortunately, I found it difficult to corresponding with two members of our group as they kept being offline most of the time. My role was to make sure our teacher is aware of this and as per his advice I gave them another chance to join at least the group presentation on Monday. Thankfully, they didn't let us down. What I would do differently next time? I will be more self-interested and will choose to participate in a group with people that are as dedicated and determined as me.

Action plan:

→ Week 9: I found it very difficult as balancing a full-time job and participating at university. The number of hours I was currently doing started showing a negative impact on my professional development. My action plan is to work less and organize my time during the next term. I will spend more time in reading academic literature because I need to build up my confidence in terms of presenting information using higher language standard.

→ Week 10: The action plan from this week will be similar to the one from week 9. Reducing the working hours will be beneficial as I will be more focused on my academic duties. I will be following the same pattern in terms of delegating the exercises of the group work and setting up deadlines. I will also be keeping in touch with the teachers as making them aware if an issue incurs during the preparation of the group projects. It will be a lot easier for us if we are attending more exercises involving group activities. This will help us improving our communication and organization skills as well as our managerial and leading abilities.

Conclusion:

Last three months of my life were not only a challenge I took but an experience with loads of positive effects. Choosing this university was a big step for myself because this is an opportunity once in lifetime for building my personal and professional growth. Here I learnt how to organize and prioritize my daily tasks as well as organizing my free time. I am so thankful for being a part of the group (week 10) as it revealed me how confident, dedicated and determined I am at this stage of my life. After this semester I realized that all I wish for depends only on me and if I really wish to achieve success at certain department I will have to work hard and to study a lot.

References:

Donegan, A, 2019; Partner's feedback, Available on appendices (last page);

Frances, Ryan; Apr 8, 2019; The Guardian, Online article accessed on 21.12.2019;
<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2019/apr/08/how-i-overcame-my-fear-of-public-speaking-and-learned-to-love-it>

The Coca cola, 2018; Online article, Meet JON Radtke, accessed on 15.11.2019;
<https://www.coca-colacompany.com/news/coca-colas-hydrogeologist>

Thompson, Michael; Dec 18, 2019; Medium Forge, Online article, accessed on 21.12.2019;
<https://forge.medium.com/the-shy-persons-guide-to-confidently-speaking-in-public-137859abbcef>

Appendices:

LCBB 4002 Community Engagement

Peer Evaluation Role Play Feedback Form

Name of Presenter DIMITRINA PETROVA Date 11.12.19Activity: HYDROLOGIST

	Poor	OK	Good	Excellent
Introduction (Explanation)				✓
Presentation (practical demonstration)				✓
Conclusion (how well can you carry out the activity?)				

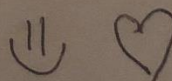
DETAILED INTRO

GOOD BODY LANGUAGE
AND VERY CLEAR.DIDN'T HAVE TIME
TO FINISH

Any other comments

DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO FINISH THE
CONCLUSION BUT THE EFFORT OF THE
PRESENTATION AND THE PRESENTATION
ITSELF WAS EXCELLENT !!!

VERY WELL PREPARED, SHAME THE TIME WAS
TOO SHORT.

Signed: JHDate: 11.12.19

