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Principles of Teaching, Learning and Emergent Technologies

30 MINUTE PEER GROUP MICRO TEACH SESSION

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Introduction

This report will analyse the micro teaching session, assessing the personal performance, as well as the use of emergent technologies and the teaching strategies that were applied throughout.

The reflective ingredient will cohere towards the strategy used by Gibbs (1998), The Reflective Cycle (See Appendix 1). Consolidated within the reflective report will explore the development of the lesson plan, the reasoning behind the chosen subject, and the conveyance of the micro teach. To conclude the report, an evaluation of the class appraisal will be taken positively to continue professional development.

Used within the micro teach was a PowerPoint Presentation and a YouTube video to embattle the learning objectives. An appreciation will be carried out to assess their significance to the overall learning objective.

Main Body

The framework that I will be using for my reflection will be Gibbs' reflective cycle. Gibbs emphasizes the significance of being able to specify, reassigning knowledge and visions gained from one situations to another. As a result of this, Gibbs' is regularly used in developing reflective frameworks, and was the most rational way for myself to put across my micro teaching experience (Williams, Woolliams and Spiro, 2012).

Description of the event

On the 27th September 2018, I had the pleasure of presenting my first ever micro teaching session to my peers. The micro teaching session was designed to follow the lesson plan that was planned previously leading up to the micro teach. The session took place at 13:15 at the new SA1 Waterfront Campus, where the

audience (enthralled with excitement) were there to observe and partake in the session.

In the build up to the micro teaching session, a commitment was reached with myself to base it upon the positives and negatives of the tourism industry, examining the social, environmental and economic impacts. The industry in focus is vastly broad in what it can educate, so the concept behind this particular content was based upon getting my peers to recognize the influence that these impacts have on the industry.

Feelings and thoughts

According to McKay et al (2011), thoughts cause feelings, and numerous emotions are heralded by a thought, however condensed, momentary or unseen that thought may be. Expressed differently, events by themselves have no emotional content.

My own personal feelings prior to the micro teach was one of excitement, but also trepidation, as there was the surreal feeling of the unknown to what might happen. When the micro teach was in full flow, my confidence slowly grew, however there was still the anxiousness within me. The subject in focus was one that I had full confidence in exhibiting to the class, however at the time, there were numerous thoughts surrounding me. These thoughts encompassed what if the subject is too broad to display into 30 minutes and what if my peers do not understand what I'm delivering. An aspect that calmed my nerves was the presence of my Bitmoji, Wayne (See Appendix 2), which proved a popular figure throughout, and somewhat disguised the pressure off myself.

One aspect that sprung upon me prior to my micro teach was how supportive my peers were to the ones presenting. As my turn was after lunch on the 3rd day, there was a lingering thought to if the impetus would still be there after a few gruelling days. How wrong I was to think that. My peers were fully engaged throughout my micro teach, which made my lesson a lot more straightforward to accomplish. It gave me further encouragement and confidence in what I was trying to achieve.

Following the completion of the micro teaching session, my initial feelings were one of satisfaction and merriment. This was further emphasized by the fact that I received so many nice comments from my peers. First and foremost, I was not used to being given so many compliments, and this eased my nerves as I had some doubts whether my lesson went as well as I thought. It gave me further encouragement in terms of being able to successfully achieve future lessons, but to also improve on what my flaws were and continually better my performance each time.

However, as my thoughts started to sink in, I gained a deeper understanding of the outcome of the micro teach. Overall, I was happy with my performance, as I achieved what I set out to do. The experience helped me gain a better understanding of my peers, and how they personally operate in pressure situations. I believe the participation obtained a stronger bond between us, as there was a feeling of consolidation following the completion of the micro teach. The experience also helped me individually. From a psychological point of view, I amassed a stronger mental apprehension towards teaching in front of an audience, which will prove pivotal in future situations. Similarly, my self-belief from the experience will only grow stronger the more I get accustomed with the position.

Evaluation

One aspect that was remarkable about the experience was the initial proceedings. This was in terms of picking out a topic and building up the content to what you wanted to make it. The excitement of looking at each other's work throughout the build-up, and seeing the progression that everyone had made was fantastic. To some degree, this provided me with extra motivation and commitment towards my micro teach as I knew what the standard was likely to be over the course of the week.

With regard to what did not go as well with the experience, an aspect that I will touch upon was the crippling anticipation with waiting to get the micro teach underway. The more I waited for my lesson, the more anxious I got. This somewhat

affected the way I went about delivering the lesson, as the anxious feeling vaguely dominated the opening proceedings of my micro teach. Another aspect of the experience that did not go as well as I anticipated was the time management of my lesson. In my estimation, there were certain features of the lesson where I rushed what I wanted to deliver. A more calm, and tranquil approach would have made the content easier to consume from a learner point of view. However, time was always against me and that constant danger of running out of time and not concluding what I wanted to say was continuously in my thought process.

Another area of improvement which I have noted is being more composed as a teacher. A factor of this is to not rush the delivery of my speech, so that my class can understand me better. Also in hindsight, there was too much information on my slides in certain facets. This was highlighted by the observers, where they mentioned that for future improvement, my slides ought to contain less information, being more precise and specific. This is so the learners are more concentrated on me, and what I say, instead of reading off the slides.

Analysis

Analysis is a vast term that a definition of what it represents is hard to acquire. The two following definitions signify what analysis stands for, and what it really means. According to Blackburn (2016), the author of The Oxford Dictionary of Philosophy, analysis stands for:

“The process of breaking a concept down into more simple parts, so that its logical structure is displayed

However, according to Audi (1999), the author of The Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy, analysis signifies:

“The process of breaking up a concept, proposition, linguistic complex, or fact into its simple or ultimate constituents

In order for myself to have the best possible outcome for my micro teach, it was essential to have the upmost disciplined and precise strategy. Many people consider strategy as a characteristic of management, however there is no single and clear definition of what strategy is, and there's even a less of consent on how to build one. Strategy entails making clear choices – to do some things and not others (Lafley and Martin, 2013).

A key part of my strategy was the lesson plan. The lesson plan enabled me to have a structure. This was in terms of what I wanted to deliver, how I wanted to deliver the content and also the time management of the lesson. I thought this was beneficial for me, as it gave me the best opportunity to deliver my micro teach the way I wanted to. With regards to the way I present my slides, I pride myself on being as imaginative as possible, as I believe the appearance of the PowerPoint is crucial in keeping the learners interested in what you are teaching. With the inclusion of various images, along with the colourful slides, I thought it brought an innovative way to how the learners perceived what I put across.

However, I found this strategy somewhat risky as I never taught people who were older than me, so they could have thought that my approach was somewhat childish. Nevertheless, they all found it amusing. Furthermore, my peers were crucial in the accomplishment of my micro teach. Without the input that they collectively gave, the lesson outcome would have not been as successful as I would have hoped for.

Synthesis

The whole process, from the announcement of the micro teaching sessions, to the conclusion on Friday 31st September 2018, there were a roller-coaster of emotions within the class. A lot of these emotions stemmed from the fact that the micro teaching sessions were suddenly sprung upon us. Due to the lack of experience some of us had with teaching, this led to tensions and stresses which built up throughout the week. Everyone knew the strains that it had, as we were all desperate to deliver a successful 30 minute lesson. The encouragement that

everyone gave each other, and the number of peers that turned up to support each lesson was a contributing factor in the amount of lessons that went efficaciously.

Throughout my whole thought process subsequently following the micro teach, there were numerous thoughts going through my head regarding what I could have done differently. Although I was relatively happy with my chosen subject, I could have tackled it in a different way. It was a bit too structured in hindsight, and I could have explored different ways in which I could have gone about going through the content, possibly in a more adventurous way. While it was my first micro teaching session, I played it conservatively with the content that I decided to go with. Perhaps selecting a more challenging topic, which would have challenged me more as an educator, but also would have challenged my peers a bit more, in terms of what they could have learned and gained from the micro teaching session. That is definitely an aspect that I will take into my next micro teaching session.

Action Plan

Always with anything that you have completed, there are always aspects in which you believe you can improve on and make amends too. In hindsight, there are numerous ways in which I would go about changing my method. Firstly, I would allocate specific time towards achieving certain goals. This includes selecting a topic that I'm confident with, and happy to deliver, but also what the learners will benefit from in terms of gaining a better understanding of that particular subject.

A key part of a successful micro teach in my own opinion is solid preparation and groundwork. Looking back and for future preparation, I would have gone into more depth with regards to my lesson plan. This is in terms of my organisation of my chosen topic, the time I give myself to build up the content and also time management in terms of the lesson delivery. This would have given me more belief with regards to the delivery of the lesson. However, thinking back, I have more confidence in producing a lesson plan, and have an enhanced knowledge on what needs to be achieved in order to produce an effective lesson.

Emergent Technologies

While emerging technologies incorporates a comprehensive range of technologies, we possibly might think of emergent technologies as a substantial break in the way individuals and society at large conduct their everyday life. New technologies has the potential to open up new areas of analysis, provide researchers with the equipment to come up with solutions, and change the setting of knowledge building within disciplines (Hesser – Biber, 2011).

However, recent technological have become largely disruptive, and will soon, dramatically disrupt the competitive landscape of markets (Hughes, 2017). There are many challenges facing companies that produce these technologies, where they are faced to deal with an environment with constant pressure to develop new products and solutions. Firms are also faced with what types of technologies they ought to embrace, and they also need to evaluate how existing market and technological capabilities might affect their firm's capacity to change (Low and Johnston, 2012).

A relevant quote which indicates the positives and negatives of emerging technologies, derives from Denzin and Giardina (2016)

“New technologies can be used positively or negatively and in fact are at once potentially empowering and productive and disempowering and destructive, and are thus fraught with contradictions”

PowerPoint

One of my emergent technologies used was PowerPoint. I decided to use PowerPoint as it has many advantages. Firstly, it's very accessible and is very popular amongst students and staff alike. Although it's not as mobile as other platforms such as SWAY, it is a very reliable application, and it was easy to integrate other forms of technology within it. This includes YouTube and various images and links which were present on my PowerPoint. This was essential towards my micro teach as the images allowed me put my own spin on the class,

and the YouTube link was essential in achieving one of the learning objectives, as well as gaining an overview of what I discussed (Miller, 2008).

Also, PowerPoint was a fantastic way of assembling professional looking slides, which would help myself deliver the lesson. However, often with the use of PowerPoint presentations, an element which was existent on mine, was the unending stream of slides with bullet points, which often vaguely look at the point rather than clarify it, and also cartoons that distract rather than send the message (Harden, 2008).

YouTube

I believe that educational videos are a key element in the learning of individuals, as it's such a unique way of putting a feature of what you are covering across. There are many different forms of educational videos, and they can be delivered using a wide range of platforms. Videos can also be used in a wide range of production formats, including lectures and case studies (Bates, 2005). Why I used YouTube was because they offer a wide range of videos which were relevant to what I was talking about. The video that I used for my case study (See Appendix 3) went over what I discussed and it gave the learners an overview. I believe this was important as it provided a more in-depth insight into the topic, and it gave the learners a foundation on what I taught during the lesson.

Conclusion

Overall, the outcome of my micro teaching session, in terms of how I performed and the feedback I got, was fair. While there were many positives, I am more focused on the negative aspects of the experience and motivated to learn from those and better myself for the next time.

What I have learned from the whole experience is that preparation is key; in terms of how you produce a detailed plan, but also how you prepare yourself. What I have gained utmost from the micro teach is to enjoy myself. I'm teaching a subject

that I enjoy, so enjoying the experience instead of fearing it is an attitude I'm determined to adopt for future situations.

I have also grasped that the use of emergent technologies is vital in terms of the learners experience, with an objective for future lessons is to utilise various forms of technologies to enhance my performance. This includes using Kahoot; Canva; Microsoft SWAY; Padlet; and Socrative. This is to expand the variety of technologies that I use, but also for the learners to get as much out of possible for my future lessons.

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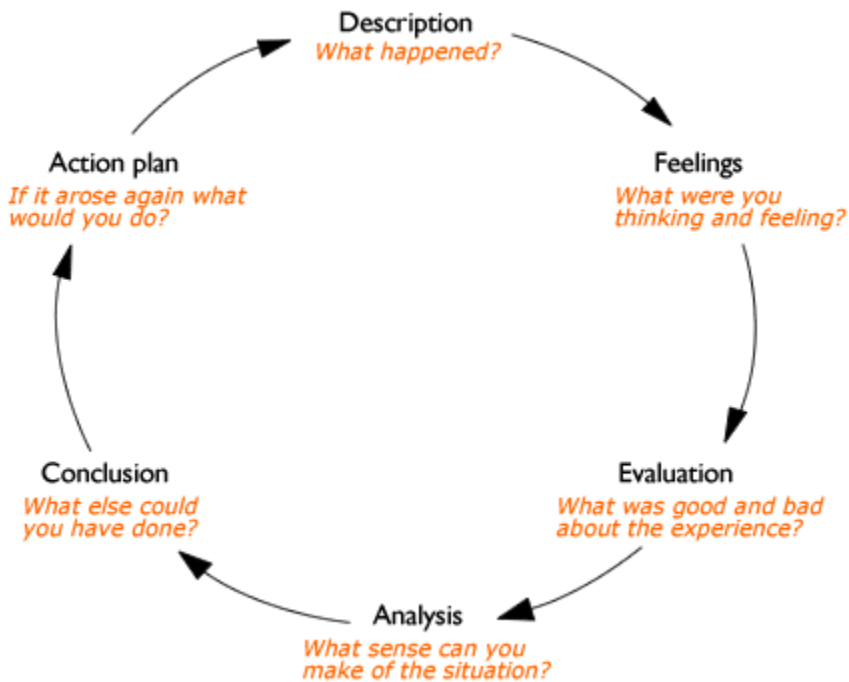
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Appendix

Appendix 1 – Gibbs' Reflective Cycle



Appendix 2 – Wayne the Bitmoji



Appendix 3 – Venice YouTube Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VVHeOAiKzE>