

Student 1

Reflective Journal Review 2

Week 13 Reflective Review

- Overall I think one of the biggest learning moments I have taken from this journal, and from this subject in general, is the importance of keeping a journal; reading back through it I can really see the development of myself as an individual, with the learning moments each week acting almost as key milestones. This has been particularly relevant in regard to the latter half of the semester's entries where I think not having the questions has almost forced me to branch out and explore specifically what I thought were important or critical moments for me and this has allowed me an opportunity to begin to embrace the initiative involved with self-directed learning. I think links back really well to my leaning outcomes / action plan from my first reflective review when I wanted to:

- have a more independent approach to learning in class
- embrace the lack of structure and learning to explore the topics more
- be able to work more effectively without criteria

I think it is hard to quantify the success in achieving these goals but I think what I've done in the past six weeks has really given me the opportunity to begin the process of developing this new frame of mind and it gives me the kick start to approach any future tasks which don't have set guidelines or criteria, like most real life projects, and have the confidence to tackle it with an open mind, with the experience of having done it successfully in the past.

- One thing I have noticed throughout my journals, especially through the last six weeks, is how many times I have reflected on a learning moment then realized that there are some key principles that I could take from that critical experience and apply to future real life projects. I think this really epitomizes what this subject – Leading Change in a Complex World – is really about; it has given me the opportunity to just immerse myself in a real world problem and actually experience the complexities and multitude of different issues associated with trying to make a positive change. Reflecting back on it, I think it really has been an invaluable experience, which I will carry with me for the rest of my life and use the processes and learning moments, which I've have developed and experienced, to apply to all future projects I am involved with.

- Another interesting trend I've noticed is how engaged and involved I have felt over the past few weeks with the classes. I think a major contributing factor is how I've been doing my reflective journals – that is not having questions – I think it has really forced me to engage with and think about the class as a whole and really think about and explore what I got out of that class in order to find a learning moment. This has allowed my writing to have more flow and also be more thorough, as it has really allowed me to write about and reflect on what was important and the key moments for me as an individual.

- In my original learning plan from Week 1, the personal learning objectives I had were to develop strong leadership skills, the ability to work well in groups and being better able to take different and broader perspectives on issues, both across academic disciplines but also from the views of different cultures. I think although I don't have a definite point where I can say I have achieved these goals, the process through this subject has allowed me an opportunity to work in a group and take a leadership role; allowing me to pick up skills and reflect on learning moments which I know I will use and apply to future situations where I will be working in a group and looking back; I think this is what this subject is actually about, as opposed to giving you a specific skill set or knowledge base, the learning moments I explored during my reflections have really given me a set principles, developed from first hand experience, that I can now take and apply to future situations.

- Although I had the opportunity to develop the aforementioned skills, I think there are also some competencies that I still have lacking and haven't truly embraced in this process. I think I still haven't developed the characteristics to take initiative or embracing working without guidelines to the extent that I wish to but I think this subject has really highlighted and made me aware that these traits are lacking in me and I think all personal development has to begin from first recognizing that there is still something left to be desired or lacking and I think this subject has given me this opportunity – to truly reflect on my skill set and also given me a stepping stone to acknowledge and begin to change. What this subject has given me is the confidence to approach future tasks of the same nature - lacking specific guidelines – and have the belief, from past experience – to just trust the process and have faith that it will all come together and I think that is exactly the approach and attitude that will help me develop my initiative and comfort with working without a specific set of criteria or guidelines.

- The real highlight over the semester has been seeing it all come together and from reviewing my reflections, this really began in Week 8 or 9 when after having explored the stakeholders and the disciplinary approaches to solving our problem, we began tailor our solution to the specific context – this really solidified what we had been doing for the past two months and was the start of putting a concrete proposal together. Observing the process we took, through Kaya’s explanation and also seeing it in the .cmap frameworks, were really inspiring and motivating and when we finished the proposal, it was great to see how all our hard work and effort had all culminated and created something that could actually make a change in the real life world.

- Contrastingly, I think the lowlight was at times the demoralizing feeling of not having specific guidelines and I think this was especially relevant for me as based from my discipline I have generally not encountered such problems and the associated loss in motivation but I think, again especially for someone like me, has also been one of the key learning moments and insights I have taken from this subject- to trust in the process – and I think this was a real “ah-ha!” moment for me, where I realized when we were beginning to develop our proposal, I saw how everything we had been completing over the past three months really did contribute and were each pieces that were really important in forming the final picture or proposal. I think this is when I had a real learning moment that I will most definitely take into any future projects – that even though you may not see the end point at all times during the journey, that if you take it step by step in the right direction, it will all come together and you will get there. I think this has been one of the key and major aspects of self-development I will take from this subject.

- I think the major things I have learnt about the leading change is the sheer complexity involved in every step and also just to trust the process, trust that if you follow step by step a proven framework, that it will deliver a well rounded, considered final proposal.

Even from the first few classes when we used blocks and figurines to try and visualize the stakeholders and their relationships, it was really clear how interconnected and complex everything was, how almost everything in a society interacted with everything else. It was really an insight into how it was not very effective to just consider a stakeholder in isolation and how important it was to consider the relationships in a general overall context and how your proposal not only directly affected stakeholders but also any indirect effects your actions would have on other key players. This complexity permeated throughout the semester in

all the tasks we completed: from deciding who the stakeholders exactly were and what impacts, influences and interests they each held to the disciplinary research where there were so many techniques and solutions that had already been trialed in the past in a global context and we just had to sort through and find successful aspects we wanted to incorporate into our own. This, in combination with developing the final proposal, where every single little detail and it's resulting effect in the real world had to be considered, really gave me an appreciation into just how complex and intricate developing a solution of a problem in the real world actually is. I think it also highlighted the importance of keeping everything as simple as possible and how important the step of setting an aim defining the problem was. In the past, I have usually taken the aim and problem definition for granted, sort of just as formality but now I realize how important it was to set a clear specific aim and problem definition so we had a very definite and concrete end point we wanted to work towards, something that we could shape our ideas towards.

I think the other major aspect I learnt about leading change is to just trust in the process; especially in our context where we had an existing framework to explore from, I see now, at the end of the process, how everything fits together and every task we complete each contributed to our final proposal but when we were actually doing it week by week, it was very hard to see how everything fitted together and how each task was relevant. I think now that I've had the experience of finding success after trusting in a process, even though I could not see the point at the time, it will give me confidence and self-belief the next time I am required to conceive a solution to a real world problem. I think this point is also very relevant to one of my other learning aspirations, to develop the ability to work without guidelines; in a real world problem there are rarely ever a set criteria list for any project and I think having had the experience of how to approach this kind of project will set me in good state for future projects I work on.

- I think the role I played in the team was of the organizer and planner. I arranged the external team meetings: booking the rooms and sending out confirmations to team members, ensuring that every one knew the details and had completed the required work by the set dates. I also acted in this capacity in a more general sense, having a strong base of the overall timeline and need for having completed certain benchmarks by certain points.

The aspect that was most highlighted to me was the importance and need for strong communication skills in a successful team. I think this refers to not only being able

to convey your own message in a clear, concise manner but also includes being able to listen and absorb in other's ideas. I think that my team did this really well, staying well connected despite any absences. This was facilitated through a variety of means: text messaging, facebook and through the wiki; and I think the way the classes were timetable was also really useful – only once a week – allowing us to have experience with something that would occur in the real world, where everyone is really busy and only has a chance to meet once a week (or biweekly, monthly etc.) and where this meeting acted more as a sharing session and a time to touch base, as opposed to a time when research / work was being undertaken – with the large majority of this occurring during times when we weren't in class. I think this really gave me an insight into how important maintaining quality communication at all times during the process is, especially when working on a real life project when we are not in the fishbowl of University.

- I would say to someone who was thinking of doing the subject: Just do it; I have found it an extremely worthwhile experience and it has definitely reshaped my approach to thinking and learning and learning about learning. I feel that I have developed skills that I will undoubtedly use during employment and which I would otherwise not have had the opportunity to acquire.

A piece of advice would be to just commit yourself to the cause and trust the process. Even though when you are experiencing it and in the process, it may not feel like you're doing anything relevant but if you complete each of the tasks with full commitment and to the best of your abilities, you will come to a realization at the end that yes the process has worked and I have come up with a feasible proposal. This applies even more so to this journal; I can tell you from personal experience that although it may seem a little pointless at the start, as you go through the subject, if you've done it properly and embraced the process, it will become a treasure, a mine of experiences and learning moments you will be able to draw upon in the future. I have definitely developed an appreciation of the power of self reflection and will most definitely endeavor to apply and incorporate this approach of reflective writing into to my other subjects and just to my life in general.

Week 12 Reflective Writing

Created by Student 1, 6/4/2012 1:24 PM

Tags:

Week 12 Reflective Journal

- I think a learning moment for me was realizing how useful it is to explain to someone how your proposal works. Having worked very hard and completed our presentation to a high degree, the team, myself included, were very disappointed when Kaya informed us that it was not a formal assessment but was just formative for the final written report on the proposal. After considering it more carefully, I understand why we needed to do it and why it was an important part of the process. I think you really never understand something until you have to explain it to someone else and I think making the presentation really gave us an opportunity to do so; in terms of our own proposal we thought we had it all worked out and ironed out in week 10 but while compiling the presentation and speech and considering how the audience would perceive and understand of what we said, I realized how many of the specifics we had yet to finalise and how many questions or concerns regarding the proposal I could now ask and we would have to clarify. It was a really important learning point that I think I will now take away and apply to any future project I work on.

Week 11 Reflective Writing

Created by Student 1, 6/4/2012 1:24 PM

Tags:

Week 11 Reflective Journal

- I think this week has just really been pulling everything together, with a focus on finalizing our proposal and presentation. In regard to the proposal, I think I found a learning moment in just appreciating how specific we had to make the solution; I mean I guess it links back to how specific our definition of the problem and aim was but really until you have to consider the complexity of any solutions and the details that are required to be considered, you don't realise how important it is to be simple and specific; to have a very straightforward yet detailed step by step proposal to hopefully implement a change. Again, as I have felt over the past few weeks this will be a very important principle to apply to any future projects I work on.

- Although not a conceptual learning moment in terms of metacognition, the decision to use Prezi, an online presentation software was a significant one for me and a practical and technical learning process for me. In the past when I have made presentations, I have always used powerpoint as my presentation software and never considered anything else. In terms of Prezi, the way I, and the group, approached it (as we had all never used it before and only considered it due to one of the group member's friend's recommendation), was to just start using it. After we began to use it, we found we lacked some of the necessary skills and at that

point we utilized some of the online tutorials present to assist us in properly using the software. I think the learning moment has come only now when I realize the principles of what we did can be applied in the process of adapting any new technology, especially online / software type programs. I think it is really important just to take the initiative and approach any new technology with an open mind and just start using it.

Week 10 Reflective Writing

Created by Student 1, 6/4/2012 1:23 PM

Tags:

Week 10 Reflective Journal

- I think this class has really confirmed the overall direction of where we're going, with Kaya running through again where we've been and why we initially explored the Vietnam context before running through the stakeholder analysis then disciplinary exploration and finally specifying any global solutions we found to the Vietnam context. I can really now see how each and every task we completed during the semester has been an important step and part of the process in developing our final proposal. I think this has really given me an insight and a template of sorts to apply to any real world problem.

- In terms of the next steps, another learning moment was how important having research to back up all aspects of your proposal is. I mean it should sort of be intuitive for me, given my scientific background, but even I was a bit surprised when Kaya advised us to perform a literature review on specific, detailed aspects of our proposal such as how story telling helps to connect emotionally with the audience or how participatory learning works. Now it seems sort of obvious but at the time, I think Kaya explaining it really gave me an insight into the professionalism and emphasis on evidence and proven results that is required for not only the broader general aspects but also for every detail and specific parts of a proposal when you're submitting to a boss or manager in the real world.

Week 9 Reflective Writing

Created by Student 1, 6/4/2012 1:23 PM

Tags:

Week 9 Reflective Journal

- From today's discussions in class I think I am beginning to appreciate the overall process and after Kaya's explanation (about where we've been with initially the context exploration followed by the stakeholders – in order to identify the key player – and then the disciplinary exploration - to identify some existing solutions - and then expanding on where we're going in terms of fine tuning our solution to the specific Vietnam context) I feel a real sense of direction and understanding and almost a light at the end of the tunnel, as such, in terms of seeing how we are going to wrap everything up and combine all the information we've accumulated into one final proposal.

- With respect to specifically what we were doing in class this week, taking some relevant photos / images and initially just listing what we could see followed by making inferences on the context and linking different pictures; it was a great learning moment to show how important it is to consider the specific context of every situation incl. the available resources, any cultural aspects and the existing infrastructure/supplies. I can really see how this will relate directly to forming our proposal and overall feel that it was indeed a very important step in the process of finding a solution.

- Generally, I think this was also a very important week in terms of working towards my action plan / goals from my reflective review in terms of I can see how even though I found it challenging working from class to class without specific guidelines or criteria, it has actually overall worked out and I think this will relate to most, if not all, real life projects; I think this learning moment – to just trust in the process and everything will fall together – will be one of the most important aspects I will take from this week, if not from this subject for me to apply during any future projects to make a change in the real world I work on.

Week 8 Reflective Writing

Created by Student 1, 6/4/2012 1:23 PM

Tags:

Week 8 Reflective Journal

- I think it was really good to finally see how what we've been doing is starting to relate to our problem and the solution we are hoping to propose. It's very interesting to note, when we were sharing our what we had learnt from our disciplines, that each of them had very distinct aspects to offer and how when explained they are very self explanatory and even intuitive – e.g. having to share personal experiences to develop a personal connection with the audience from an educational perspective – but how important it is to actually write them down and make them explicitly clear so that we do make sure we include it in our proposal.

It is also a learning moment for me to see how important a group is in making the proposal and final decision; we actually began to brainstorm and plan what our proposal would be and it was very enlightening to note how many times when we made a suggestion how someone else in the group provided constructive feedback and sort of negated or challenged that approach and I think this is the point where I've realized the truth what Kaya said during our stakeholder sharing about us having different approaches to a problem. Although this does make proposing a solution to the problem a slow process, I think it really gives me a good appreciation of the complexity and process of proposing any solution to any problem; again also the importance of having a well rounded team from different disciplines, or atleast as in our case researched it from different disciplines, in order to provide adequate feedback and critiquing. I think this experience has really highlighted the importance and relevance of this subject in providing an experience in making a change in a real world scenario and I think it really is an experience that I otherwise could not have gained in any other subject in my own discipline.

Week 7 Reflective Writing

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Tags:

Week 7 Questions

If you have already written in your reflective journal for week 7 ... you don't need to do anything ... you have learned the lesson :-)

If you have NOT already written in your reflective journal for week 7 ... there are only two questions for this week ... :-)

1. What stops you from asking your own questions?

2. What do you think self-directed learning is all about?

- I think the main thing that stops me from asking my own questions is my feeling or need for guidelines or a set of criteria. This is almost complete contrary to the concept of self-directed learning which I interpret as having the motivation and interest to research and explore a topic or subject on your own; this means not having that set of guidelines but educating yourself through taking initiative. I think this is really important and having already recognised it as being one of my aims from my reflective review, I'll attempt it over the next few weeks:

- I found the discussion in today's class regarding the concepts of disciplinary, cross disciplinary, multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary and trans disciplinary approaches very interesting and enlightening. I think this really epitomizes the beauty, relevance and importance of a subject like this which is not about learning any theory or information about a specific subject or topic as such but more focused on learning about learning – metacognition – which I think is crucial and will be very important for my career and just life in general. This has been my only subject in which I've had this opportunity

- I also found exploring the different solutions, from a scientific discipline, already implemented regarding reducing the stigma and discrimination surrounding HIV / AIDS very enlightening. It was really a learning moment for me to discover that only behind cost, the fear of stigma and discrimination has been widely reported as the most inhibiting factor in HIV sufferers adhering to their treatment plan. This actually really surprises me, as I think from the approach I usually take is that if there is a solution to a problem, the problem is solved whereas this has started to show me the complexities surrounding any issue such as this; how even though there may be a solution to a problem, there are also many considerations and obstacles that may be preventing the implementation to the solution. I think this has really highlighted the importance of the issue we are exploring and is allowing me to begin to immerse myself in the situation and begin to see this problem from the perspective of the sufferers.

Reflective Journal Review 1

Created by Student 1, 6/4/2012 1:22 PM

Tags:

Reflective Journal Review

Writing in a reflective journal has been a very novel experience for me; I have rarely had or taken the opportunity to sit down every week and think about my learning. I mean the closest thing I have done that is similar is a record of activities and a list of processes or tasks I have completed, whereas this is completely different – this is more writing about experiences and what I have been thinking about learning, even to the point of learning about learning – or metacognition which we watched a video and discussed about in class this week – through self reflection. Looking back over the last six weeks, it has been a very enlightening experience to have such a good record of my thinking and feelings about some of the key milestones and tasks in this subject.

After reading through the past six weeks of reflections and also from the sharing of our reflective journals during class this week, the main thing I noticed that I hope to incorporate in to my own writing in the future, is to not have to follow and rely on the Question followed by answer approach; I am hoping I will be able to extend and improve my reflective writing by using the questions as a guidelines and using them as a base to explore what I feel is important and I think in a sense, the past couple of weeks have allowed some of this, with the learning / critical moment questions. I think this is also a reflection of and relates to my general reluctance and inability to work without guidelines. I think this partly may be due to my background discipline, science, where the subjects I complete generally have a definite “correct” answer with specific guidelines and sets of criteria on how to complete an assignment or question, whereas this reflective journal process, and this subject in general is very open for exploration to what you’re interested in. I think this has and continues to present a challenge but hopefully I’ll take the opportunity to break down some of these barriers over the rest of the semester.

In terms of the wiki, I, and the group, to date have only used it to submit the stakeholder analysis and visualisations. From the limited experience and what I’ve already seen about the ease of functionality about the wiki, it will undoubtedly make a great tool when we’re coming to putting the final report for the proposal together as it will serve as a good record of all our processes and tasks we completed during the classes. It has also been a good place for us to share resources, which we’ve found individually with the group.

The visualisations have also been a relatively novel experience; I have previously heard of the term concept maps / mind map but I had not been aware of the extensive nature and number of different visualization methods. I think they really allow you to condense and convey a lot of information through a relatively simple and much more effective way; in addition if the correct technique is chosen, it is also often much more appealing and easy to interpret and relationships between the concepts. I am very happy and glad I have learnt about them and will endeavor to apply them to other subjects.

I also noticed how almost generic some of my reflections have been, in a positive sense where they seem to very applicable to not only this subject but a broad range and variety of different situations and aspects of my life. I look forward to continuing this process and further developing my reflective skills over the next half of the semester.

Action Plan / Learning Outcomes I wish to achieve:

- having a more independent approach to learning in class
- embracing the lack of structure and learning to explore the topics more
- being able to work more effectively without criteria

Week 6 Reflective Writing

Week 6 Questions

After exploring the various models of reflective practice .. reflect on which one you like and why?

- I think the The University of Minnesota Experimental learning Cycle would be the most effective as it allows not only learning class material but also applying it to the real world, which allows you to see beyond just the class room, it emphasizes on more the reason behind learning in this topic. This approach also highlights the need for both discussing, which I think sort of forces you to organize the information and truly understand the before you are able to speak coherently about the material and physically experiencing it. Although this approach may be difficult to apply to every learning discipline I see it as a good model to approach learning with as it allows you approach the material from all learning styles (kinesthetic, auditory, visual etc), which I think really cements in the learning.

Explore and write about a "critical moment" in your group discussion and sharing of your reflective writing.

- One thing I gained from our group discussion regarding our stakeholder analysis and sharing of the reflective writing has actually been how similar our styles of thinking were. It was interesting to note how, even though Kaya mentioned that we would probably have very different approaches to researching the stakeholder and writing our reflective journals, we in fact mentioned many of the same things in the journals, albeit there was some differences in style of writing, and also in the stakeholder analyses; there was actually not much feedback or additions of approaches after each of our presentations. I think this may actually work in our favour over the period as it seems we are very like minded and hopefully this will be conducive, and all indications have been positive so far, to our group cohesion and allow us to continue to collaborate and share without too much conflict.

What feedback did you get about your reflective journal from your team members?

What did you notice about the writing of others?

- Although I was not provided with much direct negative (/constructive) feedback, I did notice one major aspect of their journal entries that I think it would be beneficial for me to incorporate into my own. This was the smooth and flowing nature of their entries; even though they have not answered the questions in the sense of question followed by answer, they have addressed all the key issues required, throughout their writing. This contrasts to what my style has been, which has been more rigid and tightly structured, adhering exactly to “answering” a question as opposed to reflecting on my experiences. I think this may have been partly due to my discipline, science, in which most assignments and writing have required a definite answer and explanation for everything and hopefully, I can explore and go outside that box now in my future entries.

Week 5 Reflective Writing

Created by Student 1, 6/4/2012 1:20 PM

Tags:

Week 5 Questions

Gibb’s Reflective Cycle:

Stage 1 – Description of Event

- The entire group were still in class and we were deciding who main groups of stakeholders would be and how we would distribute them between ourselves to complete the stakeholder analysis.

Stage 2 – Feelings

- We were all very unsure of what the task was so we weren’t particularly sure which parties we wanted specify and who had an interest in exploring which one. We consulted with Kaya and despite getting more insight into the task were still unsure of the exact nature of what we were doing.

- This event sticks in my mind because this is where there was the first point of, for lack of a better word, conflict or disagreement between our group since it's inception. We were contemplating between different stakeholders and had differing opinions regarding the most important ones.

Stage 3 – Evaluation

- I think it worked out well in the end although the process was very protracted and not very efficient; I believe a major reason this was so was due to our lack of experience in not having a structured problem as I think we have almost been conditioned to rely more on a set of criteria for a task. As such I think this was a very important learning task to prepare us for the real world.

Stage 4 – Analysis

- I think a good aspect was that everyone was very willing to give their opinion and thoughts regarding what they thought should be included and which stakeholders they were interested in, I think this honest sharing of views ensured everyone had their say and it was much more of a group decision than would have been achieved otherwise.

Stage 5 – Conclusion

- I think everyone contributed to the best of their abilities, with the lack of experience in completing tasks of this nature being the greatest hurdle. I think one thing I would have done differently would have been to trust in the process a little bit more instead of focusing too much on the minutiae of the task. In other words I think I should have explored the issue a little bit more instead of thinking too much about how it would have to be used in the report.

Stage 6 – Action Plan

- If we had an opportunity to do this event again, I think it might have been useful to have done a brainstorming session regarding any and all stakeholders initially and then gone away and thought about which one we each wanted to do more thoroughly then done a little research into each to see if there was enough to explore before coming back together as a group to make a final decision. This may

have allowed us to have more clear insight into each of the stakeholders we wanted to research before we had to choose.

Week 4 Reflective Writing

Created by Student 1, 6/3/2012 1:52 PM

Tags:

Week 4 Questions

How is an exploration of stakeholders influencing your understanding of your Topic of Engagement?

- It has shown me that for every situation, although it is often easy to group a set of stakeholders into specified categories, each individual in the group often have different perspectives and different motivations and needs.
- It has also highlighted how interconnected each of the stakeholders are, how even though there are a multitude of different stakeholders, they form an intricate web of connections where targeting one specific group is not enough to the success of a problem, as that group is so influenced by other groups that in order for a proposed solution to work, it must address the concerns of every stakeholder.

How is the use of visualisation influencing your understanding of both the stakeholder and your Topic of Engagement?

- The visualization allows me to simplify the problem a little bit. Without a vast amount of text the diagrams help to put the specific issues surrounding each stakeholder into context and the general scheme of things.

What are some of the factors that are contributing to the success of your group?

- I think a key factor is communication - Even in the first week our group was created, I think a really important thing we did was to set out expectations we had of each other regarding commitment and contributions to the group. Since

then, we have kept in contact over the week, when we are not in class to make sure we are all up to date with each other's situation regarding this subject and our

progress. I think it allows us to understand each other better and where we come from and what we are each able to give to the group.

How are YOU contributing to the success of your group?

- I am playing my part by completing the necessary work that we have assigned each other in the group e.g. doing research for the stake holder analysis and also by contributing my thoughts and ideas to discussion during class time.

Describe a "learning" you had this week? Why is it significant?

- I think a major learning for me was to see how interconnected all the stakeholders were and that it will be difficult to find a one size fit all solution to the problem. I now understand a reason as to why real life problems are often so hard and complex to solve. It has given me an insight in terms of this project that there will need to be a lot of compromise in order for the solution to work for all parties involved.

What are you enjoying about this subject and your learning within it?

- I think a really good aspect of this subject is how it lets us explore our own ideas. I mean even from selecting the topic we were given complete free reign to pick something we were interested in and with the stakeholder analysis, we defined our own stakeholder groups and researched on specific aspects we found interesting. It has been a very different type of approach to university learning compared to my usual (science) subjects which have just generally entailed being given a set of facts and learning or researching around a clearly specified boundary whereas this subject is much broader and free ranging.

Week 3_March 20, 2012

Created by Student 1, 3/20/2012 12:07 PM

Tags:

Week 3 Questions

Topic: Health HIV

1. Reflect on your process of choosing a topic. Was it difficult or easy? Why?

- At the beginning, when I was thinking of topics, it was pretty difficult to decide which broad area I wanted to choose as I felt I was interested in most of them and there wasn't anything specific that I knew I wanted to do.
- When the more specific choices were given, I knew I was definitely interested in my topic over the others so at that point it was pretty straightforward.

2. What interests you about the topic area you chose?

- I am very interested in pursuing a career in the health sciences, a part of which is population health and I believe that this will give a very good introduction of what a real world project will be like.

3. How does the topic you have chosen relate to your discipline area?

- I am currently doing a Bachelor of Science (B-Sci), majoring in Physiology with an interest in pursuing graduate study in the Health Sciences so this topic fits in really nicely with my degree and otherwise interests.

4. What is your experience (thoughts/feelings) of engaging in an open-ended Topic of Engagement?

- I have very limited experience with engaging in an open-minded Topic of Engagement, as in the past, I have almost only exclusively dealt with specific problems with a specific aim and a "correct" answer.
- In terms of this topic, after completing the mind map, I can start to appreciate the sheer complexity and broad range of issues affecting this topic. Just from very initial research into previous knowledge in this area, I am beginning to understand that there are so many approaches to this problem and that understanding the views of as many different stake holders will be crucial in starting to develop an effective solution.

5. What are some issues / criteria that are important for you in making your team work well together?

- In my opinion, respect will be key. Respect for each other, not only in terms of differing opinions, which will undoubtedly be key due to our different disciplines, but also in terms of respecting each other's approaches to the project, our different styles in terms of group work and individual work. Just all in all trying to understand that we each have different preferences for how we like to do things and respect that.

- One thing that I think we will have to have in common is have a very clear and concise group aim to what we are actually trying achieve in terms of this project. This will allow us to continue to do our own parts but give these bits one direction as a whole.

Week 2_March 13, 2012

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Tags:

Week 2 Questions

What did you learn/become aware of from Jenny Turner's lecture on Habitat for Humanity?

- I learnt that issues in Vietnam are much more complex and convoluted, where it is not just a matter of going in, finding the problem and giving a solution, it is more about identifying and analysing an issue/concern and helping the community find a solution that they are comfortable with, which may not necessarily be the most effective, cost efficient etc but is one that respects their wishes incl. culture.

What are some of the issues you might be interested to explore in your project?

- I am not entirely sure specifically which issue but perhaps something pertinent to population health.

What do you understand as "context"?

- My understanding of the term context is the situation and everything associated under which something occurs or exists. For example in the Vietnam community the context would include the key players (community, government, charities, contractors etc.) but would also include the specifics of their village e.g. the

locality, environment, economy etc. It is basically a term which encompasses every aspect of a certain entity.

**In the left hand menu, click on "Topic of Engagement". I have added the concept "maps" you created on Thursday, giving each one a number. Select the "map" your group created and reflect on your discussion. What are some of the elements that make up the complex system?
What did you like about the process?**

Context Map 6 - The elements which made up our "complex system" included who we thought the key players / sectors (i.e. in the community e.g. agriculture, law enforcement, healthcare, education etc.) in our "ideal" (of course only ideal in our point of view) Vietnam Village society. We also ensured there was adequate infrastructure to accomodate what we thought their modes of transport.

I think the process really allowed us to get a visual representation and appreciation into how important it was for planning, considering the community as a whole and the complexity within that community.

What experience do you have of Vietnam? What experience do you have of living in another culture?

- I have had little, if any, first hand experience of Vietnam; all of what I know consists of knowledge gained from schooling and what I've seen on television (e.g. news, documentaries) regarding Vietnam and the issues surrounding its people. I also have little experience (which I can remember) of living in another culture

What might be some ways you could explore of Vietnam - while in Melbourne?

- Perhaps by trying to experience the culture, e.g. go to Vietnamese restaurants or learn some more about Vietnam through word of mouth e.g. talking to Vietnamese friends or people I know who have been there / experienced it's culture.

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Tags:

Week 1 Questions

**What graduate attributes do you want to develop in this subject?
These might include personal attributes, knowledge in particular
domains, skills ...**

- Some of the main graduate attributes I want to develop in this subject are strong leadership skills, ability to work well in groups and being better able to take different and broader perspectives on issues, both across academic disciplines but also from the views of different cultures.

How might you develop these? ... both within the subject and extra-curricular

- A good way to start developing these skills will be to be fully involved and participate as much as I can during classes. Again, in terms of extra-curricular activities, take opportunities to take what I learn and the skills I develop and apply them by taking leadership roles and opportunities to work in teams.

How will you know you have been successful? What evidence will you need to demonstrate mastery?

- I don't believe there will ever be a specific time point or position I will find myself in where I will be able to say "I have strong leadership skills" or "I have the ability to work well in groups" and in particular in regard to having broader perspectives; I believe these are abstract ideals that I will be striving for my whole life, no matter the improvements already made.

How do you learn?

- I learn well through both visually, in terms of picturing something I have seen in my mind, and kinesthetically, preferring to put theory into action and learning by practicing or applying what is being taught.

What reading and experiences influence your thinking?

- I believe that one's thinking is influenced by every single experience that they have had to date. Whether consciously or subconsciously, their present frame of mind is a product of their previous experiences.

What are your thoughts on reflective practice, leadership, complexity?

- I think that reflective practice is very important as it allows you to analyse your own flaws and allows you to create and implement ways to improve yourself.

What does self-directed learning mean to you?

- Self-directed learning is learning which occurs by self-motivation. It is learning which is not strictly through conventional academic means such as lectures and tutorials but also through one's own initiative and research into an issue. It is a very valuable skill that is useful not only in academia but more generally in life.