Illuminating and measuring personal development: the impact of this work on learning and teaching

Jackie Adamson, Wendy Clark, Jamie Thompson, Alan White
Case study

Reflection

- 2nd year module - Personal Development for IS/IT professionals
- Content presented and assessed via authentic tasks and activities
- Tutor, peer and self-evaluation
- Formal and informal feedback and feedforward
- Data for research project - ELLI as 'measurement' tool
- ELLI to aid metacognition and provide vocabulary for reflective writing
- Content presented and assessed via authentic tasks and activities
Methodology

• Students completed the ELLI questionnaire at the beginning and at the end of the module

• We compared average ‘scores’ across the 7 dimensions to monitor change

• Taking the quality of their reflective writing as a proxy for their engagement with the process we compared the ELLI results over 2 years of above-average reflectors and those below average

• Textual analysis was used on reflective writings to evaluate the impact of ELLI ideas and vocabulary on students’ understanding of the learning process.
Findings 1

Average cohort scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Before</th>
<th>After</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C&amp;L</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Findings 2

**Above average reflectors**

**Below average reflectors**
Student quotes

“What’s more I feel that I am actually learning, as I am revisiting work and constantly refreshing my knowledge, unlike my previous experiences where I learn a subject off by heart until it is over then forget it almost instantly.”

“With the graphical demonstration of my ‘learning power’ I was intrigued into discovering more about the seven dimensions of ‘learning power’ and therefore feel that the profile was very useful in improving my understanding of the topic.”

“It was better to make mistakes and learn from them at this stage”

“I enjoyed relating what we had learned about in lectures such as communications through body language and attitude to real life situations.”

“The E-Portfolio format also encourages not only to complete a task, but to analyse and improve it according to feedback obtained by peers.”

“.enabled me to reflect on past experiences and learning lessons from those experiences.”
Critical Curiosity
Change and Learning
Strategic Awareness

What does this mean??

Can we create environments, processes and interventions that support the development of these dimensions and can we evaluate them?

PDP  ELLI  ePortfolio