

Combining Reflection and Peer Review To Enhance Soft Skills

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Enhancing soft skill development: Communication

- Reflection of one's own work
- Peer review and critique
- Reflection on the peer's input
- Improved communication skills
- High impact learning



Facilitated Reflection to Deepen Learning

- Capture photos symbolizing personal cultural heritage
- Reflect on photo's meaning, without text
- Next, describe its textual meaning
- Instructor conducts double-blind review of photos only (without author's text)
- Peers reflect on photos and write their versions of textual meaning
- Results are shared with authors
- Deepened cultural symbolism



Reflection Processes

Author: It has always been said that “a picture is worth a thousand words,” and I could not agree more. This picture speaks volumes about the culture of my family and what makes me who I am. Rodeo is a sport that has been passed down for several generations in my family. However, rodeo to us is more than a sport or hobby, it’s a way of life that brings us closer together as a family. It has taught me how to care for an animal that is more than my equine athlete, but my true best friend.



Peer Review Processes

Peer: The first two things that came to my mind when I observed this photo were compassion and enthusiasm. From the looks of this, I can tell that this person has a great deal of care for others. For example, this horse represents how precise something other than yourself can be. This person's family revolves around their own livestock. In today's world, most of the human population is focused on themselves rather than looking at other important things, which is growing your family.



Reflection Processes

Author: A representation of my cultural heritage is Creole gumbo served over rice. My mom makes my Great Aunt Marion's recipe. She was born in New Orleans. The recipe calls for chicken, sausage, shrimp, and crab. The gumbo is seasoned with filé. Filé is made from dried sassafras leaves. Mom only makes gumbo between Thanksgiving and Easter holidays. It's always a meal we share as a family and cherish because of the few times a year it is prepared.



Peer Review Processes

Peer: Delicious, rich, Cajun crab gumbo for special time of the year when everyone is home and hungry. Gumbo isn't made for single servings. No, when you drag out the stuff needed to cook up that scrumptious creole dish, you know that it's the whole family there to eat it. The picture speaks to strong family ties and a healthy, engaging home life where everyone's involved, comes together to slay that beast of a meal.



Results

- Shared aspects of cultural heritage
- Gained mutual respect and appreciation for others
- Community and understanding
- Reflection (critical thinking) skills
- Evaluation skills
- Enhanced communication skills



Recommendations

- Implement in other programs to enhance reflection, communication, and peer engagement
- Develop metrics for measuring and evaluating skill development using peer review and reflection
- Connect to other disciplines and contexts



THANK YOU

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