

# **Learning Portfolio**

## **Individual:**

I was a member of Group 228 this semester.

## **Creativity:**

From the first week within this module, it was evident to me that there was far more to the creative process than I had ever realised. Topics such as divergent thinking allowed me to greatly enhance my both my idea generation and problem-solving capabilities through the exploration of a vast array of possible solutions. I believe that I have fared well in this aspect of the module and have been positively impacted as a result.

## **Continue:**

- I will carry on with my current use of tools such as brainstorming and word association. These tools are incredibly versatile and can be tailored to any situation across any of my modules.
- I also consult with groups frequently, and in the CA106 web design module for example, such collaboration can spark ideas for designing my own website.

## **Stop:**

- Too often I have found myself in a creative rut, I struggle to come up with the first idea. I will try to catch myself in such a scenario, and I can then try to approach the task from a different angle.
- In CA106 for example, I need to rely less on the internet for inspiration. I come up with my own ideas, however I frequently return to trusted templates when I know I should be taking more risks.

### **Start:**

- I will endeavour to improve my creative process by putting in further research into the topic. I wish to learn more about the strategies I can employ in order to develop my creativity.

### **Problem Solving:**

Problem solving is another element of the module that I have thoroughly enjoyed and developed my capabilities in. I have started to consistently employ problem solving strategies such as breaking a problem down into subproblems. I have fared well in this activity so far, as evidenced by my steady improvement in my problem solving abilities in both the lectures and labs.

### **Continue:**

- I will persist with various problem solving strategies such as looking for patterns or inverting the problem.
- The continued use of such approaches will allow me to continue to come up with creative solutions to problems, particularly in the CA116 programming module where we are constantly trying to solve problems.

### **Stop:**

- I recognise that I need to fully comprehend a problem before I attempt to find solutions. In this module for example, I will strive to ensure that I have read the question in full before trying to solve it.
- I also need to remain calm and focused on the task ahead. Too often have I become frustrated and lost my focus, I must remember to be patient and consider different approaches.

### **Start:**

- When I am struggling in CA116 for example, I need to rely less on others for inspiration. Sometimes I ask for help too soon, I must develop the ability to solve problems on my own.

- Once I have solved a problem on my own, I may consult with someone else afterwards and examine their approach. In doing so, this will allow me to potentially improve my own strategies with outside ideas.
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### **Group Project:**

I was a member of Group 228 for the Group Project.

### **Continue:**

- We will continue to work as a team, I feel that we were efficient in the use of our time in the labs as well as at home, we managed to make decisions as a group in the labs and then build upon them individually at home.
- I also believe that we successfully employed critical thinking and decision making strategies, for example we were able to make quick and effective decisions on what the content of our presentations would be.
- Additionally, we were creative in our time together, we came up with several different ideas on any given topic and we were able to work together in order to use promising ideas effectively, as well as improve upon weaker ones.
- As a group, we also felt that we did a good job in presenting our slideshows. We followed the given instructions in terms of timing and content for example, and we were all confident in our delivery of said content.

### **Stop:**

- Upon reflecting on our group project, I believe that a main weakness of both myself and the group was poor time management. We tended to

leave any given work to the last minute, and this put unnecessary pressure on each of us.

- Another behaviour that we will have to improve upon is our lack of research and information gathering. We did not incorporate much, if any, outside research into our project, and in retrospect this would have been a good opportunity to see different viewpoints and improve upon our existing material.
- Although we worked effectively as a group, there were times when we all jumped onto an idea immediately without considering alternatives. This herd mentality could easily be stopped with a more conscious approach to decision making, we could make a deliberate effort to question every idea in order to find flaws in existing ideas or derive entirely new ideas.

### **Start:**

- I believe that we can still improve as a group. Personally, I will strive to use Trello more and hopefully convince my group to do the same. We have a Trello board, but we did not take advantage of having this task-by-task schedule as much as we could have. Increased interaction with Trello would keep us accountable for future projects, as the deadlines and clearly defined tasks would provide a clear path for us to follow.
- I will also strive to incorporate elements of lateral thinking into my creative process, as too often I found myself running into a wall in terms of thinking, and I recognise that viewing a problem in a new light may offer alternative solutions.
- I will also endeavour to have our group rehearse our presentations before we deliver them, as this may allow us to address any unforeseen problems, and will provide familiarity, clarity and confidence to each of us.