

Group reflection [+1]

Note: Only one member needs to upload the group reflection.

1. As a group, what is the thing you're most proud of for this round of critique?

As a group, we're most proud of creating and presenting our storyboards during the crit. We felt that our drawings were clear and easy to understand in showcasing our user methodology, personas and scenarios that we came up with, and the details of our solution from our storyboard. The feedback and critiques we got during our crit will greatly help us in our project's future, and the storyboard pictures were a big part in helping us get that feedback.

2. As a group, what is one thing you want to improve upon for the final presentation and showcase?

For our final presentation and showcase, we would like to go more in-depth into our user research results. While we did talk a lot about the methodology itself and the personas and scenarios we derived from the interviews and surveys, we didn't really talk much about the interesting findings we got from our methods, like the resources that people used, what they liked/disliked about them, and the suggestions they had for an ideal language learning resource. Talking more about the results themselves will better showcase the reason for our project direction and better support for why we went in the LLM direction (for example, since a lot of people mentioned not having people to practice and wanting an app that can let them do that, we figured an LLM can help users practice more conveniently and with less judgement by simulating a conversation with someone).

3. As a group, what is your next priority? Suggestion: Discuss what you think is the biggest open question/source of uncertainty/potential hole in your project that could "threaten" its success.

Currently, our next priority is to determine how we can implement our solution, including the language learning model itself and how to incorporate audio for speaking/listening when learning a language. The audio part in particular is something we feel is the biggest challenge for now. Speech recognition can be finicky in correctly recognizing words, especially for a beginner speaker (as someone mentioned in the crit), and it might be complicated to attach a speech-to-text LLM component onto our language learning LLM. If this is a problem, we might need to limit our project's language modalities to mainly reading and writing, which is going to limit our model use, especially for users who want to learn a language to become better speakers.

4. What steps will you take to address this priority?

For now, we're going to try and explore as many different models as we can to see which one will best suit our goals, especially open-source models that we can work and improve upon for our own specific tasks. Additionally, if we have issues with the speech recognition portion of our project, we can pivot to focusing more on the reading/writing modalities and try implementing a text-to-audio program to convert the LLM's outputs into sound. That way, users can still practice

their listening skills and learn how different words can be pronounced, which can indirectly help them with speaking practice.

5. Will you and your group try a big pivot and then catch up? How?

Right now, we don't believe we will be making a big pivot in our project. Our overall implementation strategy of using LLMs has stayed the same. Even when considering potential issues like the audio part mentioned above, we feel that we will only need to make some small adjustments/pivots from our original plan.

6. What support do you need to be successful for the remainder of your project?

Since we'll be using LLMs as the backbone for our project, the most important resources we need will be servers or workstations to train, test, and run our project.

Some other support for our project includes things like a direction of where to start for looking into models suited for our specific tasks (like language learning, speech recognition, and text-to-audio that sounds 'natural'), as well as exploring the API of closed-source models.

Did you use a generative AI tool? If so, which and how?

No generative AI was used.

How long did this reflection take your group?

This reflection took around 1 hour to finish.