

Guide for Personal Reflection (This write-up should be kept within one page)

The main purpose of this write-up is to allow you the opportunity to take a step back from the activities involved in the study or project work. Taking a step back will allow you to **reflect on the process**, **to question what you are doing**, and **to be conscious of the bigger purpose** of your journey during the CS 397 Embedded Systems module. As we know, the **process** of getting to the end of the study/project is as important, if not more, than end of the study/project itself. As saying goes, "*the goal is the aim, the process is the focus*". Reflection is an important skill and habit for engineer-leaders to inculcate, adopt and practice.

The personal reflection exercise and the writing-up of what you reflect will "force" you to slow down and take stock of what you have or have not been done correctly and a chance to learn and grow through the reflective experience. There are plenty of things to reflect on in life but in this exercise, we want to focus on your educational journey as a work-in-progress engineer during the study of this module. Blogging, in many ways, is like a personal-reflection exercise, so if you are already blogging on some issues of interest (social concerns, environmental issues etc.), this exercise would be right up your street.

Personal reflection is also a part of life-long learning, which you should cultivate now, since it has been said that our degrees have 'expiry dates', in view of the speed of technological advancement. The technological knowledge we learn today may be superseded by new knowledge very quickly in a short period of time. That said, generic skills such as personal reflection is timeless and will stand you in good stead in your professional and personal life.

In the write-up, you may consider the following leading questions as triggers to start your personal reflection.

1. How effective has your team work together in addressing the problem identified?
2. What is your team's dynamics, were there problems, difficult team-mates, opposing ideas etc. and how you think you might improve the dynamics?
3. How is what you are learning in process of working on the project helps you see yourself, your team-mates, the supervisors and perhaps the education community differently?
4. How has working through the project help you identified your learning style?
5. How has the experience of working in a team highlight your own inadequacies in coming up with solutions, new ideas, etc.?
6. What aspect of engineering did you learn about during your study/project?
7. How has working on the project help you appreciated the benefits of a multi-disciplinary approach to solving grand challenges in our society?
8. What have you learned about your own views and abilities or limitations during the study/project?

These are just some of the possible reflection questions, which you may think through. You are encouraged to think of other relevant issues which have impacted you in terms of learning or in your understanding of new areas during your study/project.