

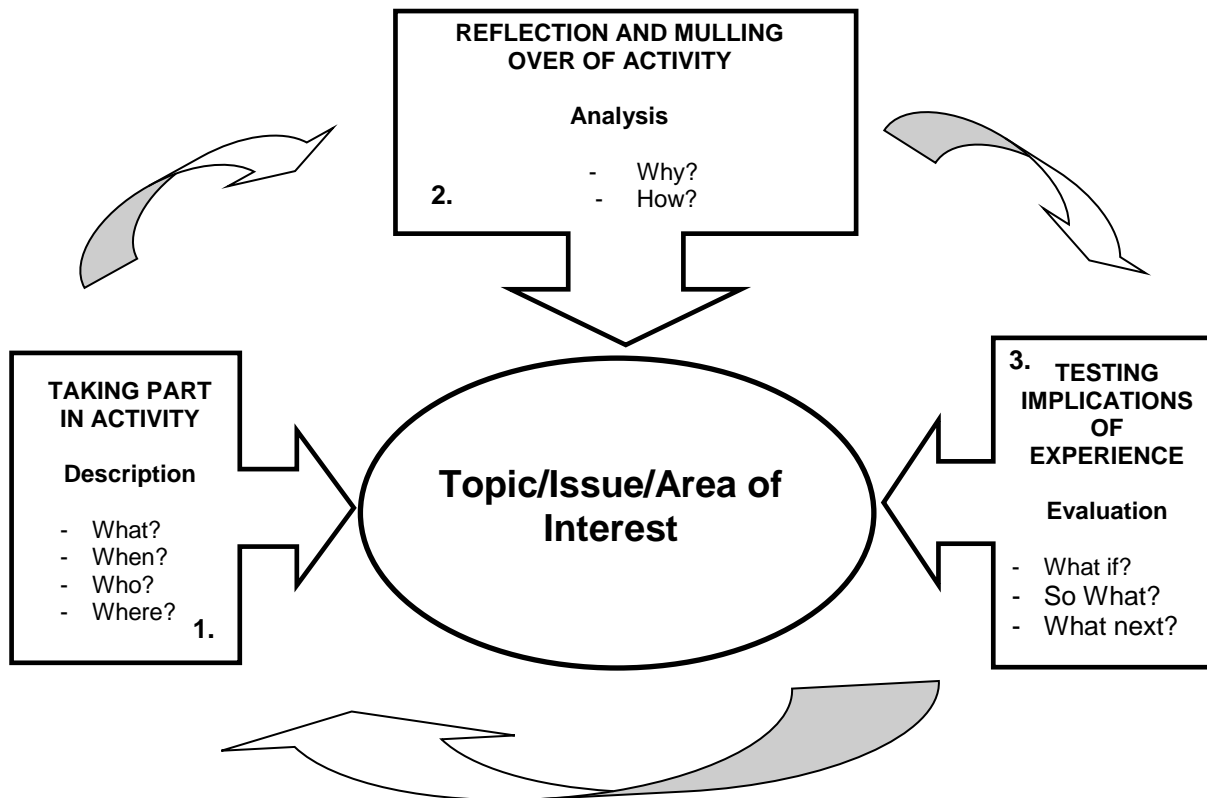
COMPUTING PROJECT (COMP08053)

TUTORIAL 8

Critical and reflective thinking is increasingly becoming an important aspect of professional practice and has long been established in for example teaching and health related professions. Reflective practice is being used more widely in professions relating to computing, creative industries and business related areas. Project management is once such area in which experiences gained within a project are reflected upon and lessons learnt which can be fed into future projects.

Potential employers will expect you to be able to reflect upon your learning experiences at University and be able to discuss them in a job interview and how these experiences may relate to the post you are applying for, as well as how they be relevant to the organisation. Simply giving “I dunno” answers or just telling them your grades is unlikely to be sufficient in convincing them of your potential value to them.

The diagram below illustrates how the cycle of learning and reflection can take place and the types of questions that can be considered.



- 1) Looking at the diagram above, think of two activities relating to participating in a project / project management either as part of the Computing Project module or in another project you have been involved in (e.g. previous work experience, another module) and write one or two sentences describing the activity.

- 2) Look back on the activity and reflect upon:
 - Your thoughts expectations before embarking on the learning activity
 - How you approached the learning activity
 - Which parts of the activity you found easy / hard

- 3) Now think about what you have learned as a consequence of participating in the activity:
 - Did you knowledge and understanding change? If so how?
 - What would you do differently if you were faced with a similar situation in the future?
 - What knowledge and understanding might be applied in the future?

- 4) Consider how the implications of the learning activity might be tested in the future
 - How might you go about putting into practice what you have learned?
 - What challenges might you encounter?
 - How would you go about dealing with such challenges?

You should spend the rest of the time in the tutorial working in your project groups and discussing key issues or problems that you are encountering. Use the time with your tutor/supervisor to discuss these issues and problems.