

Business School, Faculty of Professions

The use of reflective journaling to assess the quality of teaching and learning in a large accounting course

Lisa Powell
University of Adelaide
lisa.powell@adelaide.edu.au

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Objectives of the study

- Purpose
 - To demonstrate the effectiveness of reflective journaling to assess and improve the quality of teaching and learning in a large undergraduate accounting course
- Motivation
 - To maintain and or improve the satisfaction of the institutional and personal educational goals of the university, teachers and students involved in the course

Slide 1

Reflection

- "A process... involving experience and uncertainty" (Jay, 2002, p.76)
- "Active, persistent and careful consideration of any belief or supposed form of knowledge in the light of the grounds that support it and the further conclusion to which it tends" (Dewey, 1933, p.9)

Slide 2

Prior literature

- Establishing good educational experience
 - Jin, 2000; Saroyan and Snell, 1997
- Reflective journaling
 - Boyd and Boyd, 2005; Danielowich, 2005; Dewey, 1933; Schon, 1983, 1987; Harland, 2005; Hubbs and Brand, 2005; Jay and Johnson, 2002; Van Manen, 1977; 1995

Slide 3

Methodology

Broad categories

- What worked well; what do I want to change or remember for next time; what will I do better next time

Specific issues

- Change of text, lecture time, plagiarism intervention exercise

Levels of reflection (Jay, 2002; Danielowich, 2007; Van Manen, 1997)

1. Descriptive/technical
2. Comparative/Interpretive
3. Critical

Slide 4

Findings/discussion

- Descriptive/technical
 - Overall content, organisation, delivery from the teacher perspective
- Comparative/interpretive
 - Learning experience from student perspective
- Critical reflection
 - Diversity amongst the large student cohort creates barriers to the satisfaction of institutional and personal educational objectives

Slide 5

Conclusion

-The use of a reflective journal has been useful for assessing the quality of a large undergraduate accounting course and identifying actions for improvement to increase the satisfaction of institutional and personal educational objectives

Slide 6