

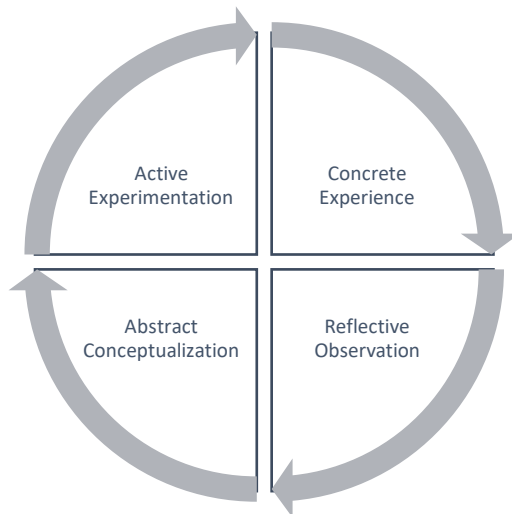


Best Practices for the S997 Reflection Paper

The purpose of the one-page S997 Reflection Paper is to demonstrate your learning to your faculty advisor. You'll want to think about how this experience connects to your academic work and how has it helped you to develop professionally. Discuss with your advisor whether you will also be sharing other work generated from your placement (e.g. reports, websites, products, etc.)

Using David Kolb's theory of experiential learning may help guide your reflection paper.

1. *Concrete Experience*: Explain your experience.
2. *Reflective Observation*: Reflect on the experience and your understanding before starting the experience. Check for inconsistencies between the two.
3. *Abstract Conceptualization*: State new ideas or modifications that you generated through your experience.
4. *Active Experimentation*: Show how you applied these modification or new ideas to your work. You may include how you will take this learning to the next level in your second semester.



David Kolb's Theory of Experiential Learning

As you are writing, consider both what you accomplished and the absence of visible achievement. Both are extremely powerful in helping you to understand the next steps in your career development. It may be helpful to ask yourself guided questions to compose your reflection. Consider the following:

1. Did the experience challenge your thinking about theory, culture, or emotions?
2. Did the experience provide you the opportunity to examine previous beliefs?
3. Did the experience provide you the opportunity to challenge situations by applying new ideas?
4. How have your approaches or ideas changed the way you approach your professional development?

A reflection paper is different from academic writing, as it includes subjective feelings and opinions. Instead of revealing everything about yourself, consider how your experience is related to your professional development.

- It should be organized with a thesis statement at the end of the opening paragraph.
- You may use personal pronouns
- Think about your sentence structure. The sentences should be focused and varied in length.
- Incorporate theories that you have learned in other classes that may be relevant.
- Keep your paper to between 600-900 words.