

Blended Learning Quick Start Series: Embedding reflection into the curriculum

Introduction

Reflection is a purposeful process through which students analyse their educational and/or professional experiences in order to learn, improve, and develop.

Reflection is an important part of learning through experience and may involve reflecting upon professional or academic practice, analysing a particular experience or set of experiences, evaluating a project and considering how things might be done differently in future, or reflecting on readings in order to link theory with practice.

There are many approaches to embedding reflection into the curriculum and so it's useful to begin by considering which reflective framework is most appropriate for your curriculum area. Frameworks such as Gibbs' reflective cycle (1988), Johns' model of structured reflection (1995), and Holm and Stephenson's framework for reflection (1994) provide useful starting points.

Reflection can be easily embedded in both face-to-face and online settings using a range of tools within our [Learning Platform Suite](#).

Option 1: Text-based reflection in Blackboard

Written reflection can be submitted either via a [Turnitin](#) submission point or [Blackboard Assignment](#) if you want the reflection to be private between the student and the tutor. Alternatively, the [Blackboard Journal](#) tool provides a quick and easy way for students to make multiple reflective posts over time using any device; this is great for students who are out on placement.

Option 2: Media-rich portfolios in PebblePad

[PebblePad](#) is a personal learning space that can be used to create e-portfolios. PebblePad allows students to create dynamic media-rich portfolios, including materials and artefacts used to evidence and support reflection. Reflective templates can be developed to help prompt students to engage in reflection as part of their studies, and portfolios can be shared widely with staff and fellow students.

Option 3: Audio and video reflection

Students can record their reflections on their own devices and then upload these to [ReCap](#). These recordings can then be shared and embedded in a range of tools, including [Blackboard Assignments](#), [Discussions](#) and [Journals](#), [PebblePad](#) portfolios and [Padlet](#) idea walls. Audio and video reflection is good for capturing 'in the moment' thoughts and ideas, enabling students to keep an up-to-date record of activities.

Option 4: Reflection on feedback

Getting students to reflect on feedback they have received for an assessment is a great way to embed reflection into the curriculum. You may wish to include question prompts in Blackboard so that students reflect on their feedback as they receive it. Questions centred around how the feedback made them feel, and or future actions are good starting points.