Reflective Project Activity Reference Guide

Also Refer to the Reflective Project: Student Guide

Part One ~ Identifying the Issue and Ethical Dilemma

\* What are ethics and an ethical dimension?

\* Ethics is based on a set of moral principles of a society or culture that helps to guide behaviors, actions and choices. The ethical dimension refers to the range of ethical aspects related to an identified topic.

\* What is an ethical dilemma?

\* Within an issue there are ethical dilemmas. An ethical dilemma is a choice between two (or

more) conflicting moral perspectives where neither choice provides a perfect solution.

\* In the context of the reflective project, you are required to examine an ethical dilemma by examining the advantages and disadvantages of each moral perspective.

Part Two ~ Finding Materials and Sources

\* Provide evidence of research that supports the differing viewpoints on the issue and its

ethical dilemma.

\* Undertake sufficient preparatory reading on your chosen issue.

\* Use the library and consult librarians for advice

\* Record sources as you go along (do not try to reconstruct at the end)

\* Read a selection of articles, newspapers, magazines, books and websites that will help you

determine the significance of your issue and formulate a good reflective project question.

\* As you read, underline or note (Cornell Notes) down key words, phrases and ideas that can be used to further your search for information.

\* Keep in mind the reflective project guidelines.

Part Three ~ How will community awareness be demonstrated in your project topic?

\* You are required to find out how the community feels about the issue and how the issue will

impact them. This can be done through either primary and/or secondary research.

\* Primary research is collecting data and information first-­‐hand, that is by you, through the

use of questionnaires, surveys and interviews.

\* Secondary research is collecting data and information that already exists, that is by reading

reports, publications and other literature.

\* Your research question will help you focus your research. You should know what

data/information you want to get, so make sure your question promotes research.

\* A community is a group of people with common interests such as where they live, religion and ethnicity. A community has its own set of attitudes and way of life. Those attitudes and way of life make the members of the community see the world around them in a certain way. You need to be aware of what those attitudes are and the way in which they influence the community.

\* There is a common misunderstanding about the term “community”. It is tempting to see the community as simply those around you, for instance at your school, at home or at work. You need to think about the wider sense of the term. It could be your local neighborhood, your town, your city, even your country or it could be your religious community or your ethnic community.

\* For logistical reasons you may choose to engage with your local neighborhood or town, particularly if you want to undertake primary research. Secondary research is probably more appropriate if you want to take a broader view of community.

Part Four ~ What cultural perspectives may influence your project topic?

\* You are to demonstrate an awareness of how culture can influence perspectives on the ethical dilemma of the issue. Explore social and cultural differences based on cultural identity and how these differences may lead to different perspectives, and obtain data related to the following categories. This, therefore, allows you to look for differences related to, for example:

\* Age

\* Ethnicity

\* Gender

\* Language

\* Nationality

\* Religious beliefs

\* Socio-­‐economic background

Part Five ~ Gathering Supporting Evidence

\* It is crucial that you search for data relevant to the issue of your reflective project. You also need to show critical judgment when using sources—the first source of information that you come across may not be the best one.

\* What is relevant data?

\* Find a range of evidence from a variety of sources, which provide contrasting views of the issue and the associated ethical dilemma.

\* The evidence should be referred to all the way through your project.

List sources to help you begin your search on issues & ethical dilemmas