Reflective Practice



Peer and Self-Assessment as a Means to Improve Levels of Reflection in Students' Journal Writing

Journal:	Reflective Practice
Manuscript ID:	CREP-2012-0102
Manuscript Type:	Original Paper
Keywords:	Reflection, Reflective Practice, Reflective Learning, Peer Assessment, Self Assessment



Peer and Self-Assessment as a Means to Improve Levels of Reflection in Students' Journal Writing

Much has been written about ways in which we might help students to improve the level of reflection that can be found in their Journal Writing. Formative peer and self-assessment has been cited as a way for students to develop a clearer understanding of what is required to write reflectively and can alleviate some of the difficulties associated with staff assessing student journals. In order to evaluate the efficacy, reliability and validity of peer and self-assessment, a cohort of architecture students were asked to assess each other's on-line reflective blogs on two occasions during an academic year. These were rated in terms of the level and focus of reflection using a standard assessment rubric. It was found that there was reasonable consistency of ratings between those reviewing the same student's work. There was less consistency between an individual's own assessment and the assessment of their work by their peers. There was also a significant improvement in the level of reflection recorded in the peer-assessment between the first and second review. It appears that this improvement resulted from the process of undertaking the peer assessment, rather than through the utilisation of the feedback it produced.

Keywords: Reflection, Peer-Assessment, Self-Assessment

Literature Review

Whilst the literature on reflective practice is broad and extensive, definitions of what is meant by reflection vary between authors (McCarthy, 2011; Moon, 1999). Nevertheless, there does seem to be some degree of agreement that reflection can take a number of forms, and manifest itself at a series of cognitive levels, usually ranging from pure description (no reflection) to something that is critical and evaluative, enabling learners to gain new perspectives (Bain, Ballantyne, Packer, & Mills, 1999; Hatton & Smith, 1995; Kember et al., 1999; Mezirow, 1991; Moon, 1999). Given that it is often argued that students who engage in higher levels of reflection are likely to show benefits in terms of their learning, it is somewhat disappointing to note many reports that suggest that much of the supposedly reflective writing by students, is little more than a description. Dyment and O'Connell (2011)

reviewed 11 studies of situations where students were asked to write learning journals. They found that in only two of these cases, were the authors content that students were reaching high levels of reflection. In five cases, levels of reflection were seen to be minimal. Whilst Dyment and O'Connel recognised that there was variation in the ways in which reflection was assessed in each of the separate studies, they were able to conclude with reasons why some journaling exercises might have been more effective than others. These include whether journals were mandatory, the level of introductory support given to students, the length of the journal keeping period, the contribution of the journal to the overall mark, the nature of the relationship between journal keeper and tutor and the provision of formative feedback to students whilst undertaking the journaling process. Bean and Stevens (2002) also commented on apparent low levels of reflection in a number of studies of pre-service teachers and purported the need to provide 'scaffolding' in the form of prompts, feedback and dialogue to support students in becoming reflective. Bain et al (2002) in response to similar concerns, evaluated how feedback might help students develop reflective skills for learning journals. They distinguished between feedback that discussed the topic being reflected upon (the focus of reflection) and the level of reflection generated. They concluded that whilst providing students with formative feedback provided general benefits for the improvement of their writing, feedback that particularly focused on the level of reflection was particularly effective. Samuels and Betts (2007) also recognised that reflective writing was often overly descriptive and that teacher support was needed to help students deepen their reflection. They suggested that the provision of feedback was a key means to help students achieve this.

The benefits of giving formative feedback to students, is generally acknowledged as an important aspect of student learning (Black & Wiliam, 1998; Yorke, 2003), Effective feedback helps students clarify what is required of them; enables them to re-conceptualise and reconsider their understanding, skills and ideas; encourages them to become self-critical

Reflective Practice

and can improve motivation and self-esteem (Nicol & Macfarlane-Dick, 2006). Nevertheless, providing formative feedback can be time consuming to generate, particularly where large cohorts are involved. Furthermore, if students anticipate their reflective writing will be assessed, it can reduce their willingness to write openly and introduce an element of artificiality into their reflection (Boud & Walker, 1998; Stewart & Richardson, 2000; Sumsion & Fleet, 1996). Creme (2005) attempts to weigh up the arguments between the motivating effects of assessment, where students will only take the work seriously if it counts, and the dangers of assessment constraining the students reflections. She argues that peer and self-assessment, at formative stages might represent an acceptable compromise, although recognising that in her observations, students peer feedback lacked guidance on how to develop the writing further.

An important aspect of giving feedback is getting students to become self-critical of their work (Nicol & Macfarlane-Dick, 2006). A clear, common understanding of assessment criteria is one way to develop this (Cartney, 2010; Rust, Price, & O'Donovan, 2003) and can avoid a possible mismatch between the conception of feedback given to students, and the students conceptions of the feedback they receive (Orsmond & Merry, 2011). Falchikov and Goldfinch (2000) argue that peer assessment more reliably matches staff ratings when clear, but simple assessment criteria are provided. Rust et Al. (2003) argue that for this to occur effectively, students and staff need to develop a shared understanding of the meaning of the assessment criteria. Sadler (1989) argues that students need to develop the same evaluative skills as their tutors, so that they can conceptualise the feedback from a similar perspective.

Ellis (2001) evaluates the benefits of introducing peer assessment into the process of writing a practice-based reflective journal, and concludes that this process helps students who are not naturally reflective develop the skills necessary for their own writing. Samuels and Betts(2007) also note the benefits of self-reflection in helping to develop student's journal

writing, suggesting a series of questions or prompts that can be used to help them 'reflect on their reflection'. Dunning et al (2004) however, caution against self-assessment, observing that often judgments show elements of overconfidence on the part of the assessor. They argue that peer assessment remains a more reliable means for assessing work.

The Study

This paper evaluates the introduction of peer and self-assessment to the process of journal writing in order to help students develop their reflective abilities. Its subjects are a cohort of 64 Architecture students who are undertaking a placement year in professional practice; in many cases their first experience of professional practice. Whilst the research focusses wholly on architecture students, its findings should be transferable to other professional areas.

As a course requirement, students are expected to undertake 9 months work in an architectural (or related) practice. During their time, they are required to produce a reflective e-portfolio related to their experience in practice. This e-portfolio is assessed, and constitutes one third of the marks for the entire year. To maintain fairness, the criteria for assessment is based entirely on the level of reflection rather than the subject of the student's writing, which can vary depending on the student's employment circumstances.

The principal assessed component to the e-portfolio is a reflective blog that the students are expected to write. Students are provided with guidance which suggests they consider what they regarded as challenging and why; their feelings, beliefs and assumptions and how these might have changed; the relationship between their experience and their initial expectations of practice; their roles and relationships to those of their colleagues; how they addressed the challenges encountered; the support and feedback they had and needed and what could be done better next time. These prompts are designed to steer the students away from purely descriptive writing and to encourage something that is more reflective.

Reflective Practice

In previous years, the author has been responsible for reading all of the student's eportfolios on four occasions during the academic year. Given that a typical cohort size is approximately 60 students, this proved an onerous task, and often led to delays in feedback being returned to the students. Furthermore, reliability and consistency of comments could not be guaranteed. Although end of year course evaluations always suggested that students value receiving feedback on their work, experience also showed that there appeared to be very little improvement in the quality of the students' work following the formative feedback.

Recognising concerns about consistency in terms of comments and marks, the author conducted a detailed analysis of the reflective writing of a previous cohort [Reference Removed]. This led to the generation of the rubric that can be used to classify the students' reflection (Appendix 1). As with the taxonomies developed by Bain et al. (1999) this distinguishes between the level of reflection provided by the student, and the particular focus of reflection – in this case between focussing on their own personal development, the specific projects they are working on in their offices, or the environment, practice or broader profession in which they are currently working. The rubric provides generic descriptors for the differing levels of reflection within each focus. This can be used by both students and teachers as a point of reference to measure level and focus of reflection. It was hoped that by using it to carry out peer and self assessment, it would enable the students to better understand what was meant by reflection.

The students were issued with copies of the assessment rubric and a set of explanatory notes. They were allocated two other students whose work they had to review using the rubric in addition to reviewing their own work. This was done on two occasions – the first four months after starting the programme, and the second three months after that. To enable the students to be exposed to a fuller range of their colleagues' work, they reviewed different students on each occasion. The students were asked to read their allocated reflections a

URL: http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/crep Email: rl.international@btinternet.com

paragraph at a time, and allocate each paragraph to one (or more) of the nine categories in the rubric. The nine categories were a combination of three levels of reflection (high, medium and low), and three possible foci of reflection (project, person and practice). In some cases paragraphs may feature text that falls into more than one category, and students were told that they could allocate a paragraph to more than once. Students were asked to count the number of paragraphs in each category and report these back. In a similar study, Bell et al (2010) found that coding individual paragraphs gave a better impression of overall levels of reflection than making a holistic judgement across individual pieces of writing. They found that students predominately wrote the majority of their work at low levels of reflection, but most wrote a small number of paragraphs at a higher level (some very high). They argued that by taking a holistic view, reviewers might lose sight of this high level of reflection. Similarly Falchikov and Goldfinch (2000) through a meta-analysis of studies comparing tutor marks with peer assessment marks, found less consistency where a global judgement had to be made compared to those where explicit criteria were provided with several dimensions. Therefore, the decision was made to avoid asking students to make a global judgement, but to rely on them categorising individual paragraphs.

In addition to the assigning of paragraphs to categories the students were asked to rate each portfolio in terms of how thorough it was, how well presented it was and how well written it was. These were all rated using a scale of 1-5. Finally the students were asked to write some optional free text advice for the students. The students then entered the total number of paragraphs counted in each category into an on-line Google form.

The peer and self-review results were presented back to the students visually using a graph (Figure 1). The graph was designed to quickly show students how their portfolios compared to the cohort as a whole and how their own rating and peer ratings compared. The graph used an algorithm to create a single score for the underlying level of reflection for each

Reflective Practice

of the three foci within the students writing from the overall paragraph counts. A set of target scores was also created to indicate to the students how we would wish the students to develop their portfolios. The target score was the same for each student but was a somewhat arbitrary means to focus their writing. It placed greater emphasis on encouraging the students to write more in the practice and personal areas, rather than to describe their projects. The students could also see their peers comments on their work. The tutor also reviewed each of the students work and provided comments on the extent to which the peer reviews seemed a fair reflection of the work (generally it was felt that they were).

[Figure1 1 here]

Findings

As mentioned previously, the students reviewed each other's work on two occasions. As the students are based out in architectural practice, rather than in the university, some found it difficult to prioritise academic work over their professional work. As a result, at the time of the first review, a number had barely started completing their blogs, and so it was impossible for other students to review them. All students were still expected to review two other students, so for the first review there could be up to 4 students reviewing a peer's work. By the second review, there were generally only two reviewers as most students had writteb something. At the first review 39 students had work to review and at the second review, there were 64.

The data submitted by each student took the form of a count of the number of paragraphs falling into each of the nine categories in the assessment rubric. It was possible to use this to measure consistency of rating, and to see if student writing had improved as a result of the exercise. It should be noted at this point that students were not expected to submit marked up copies of the materials they had assessed so there was no indication of which paragraphs were marked at each level.

Consistency of ratings between students

The ratings from each of the reviewers for an individual student were compared to measure consistency. The number of paragraphs counted by each reviewer was used to calculate the mean for that student in each of the categories. Consistency was measured by looking at each reviewer's average deviation from that mean. In such a way an average deviation of zero suggests that all reviewers allocated exactly the same number of paragraphs to that particular category for that particular student, an average deviation of less than 1, suggests that the differences between reviewers was less than one paragraph either side of the mean.

The results from both the first and second review showed that between half and two thirds of reviewers varied in their categorisation by one paragraph or less from the mean for the student they reviewed (Tables 1 and 2). Approximately 90% of reviewers varied in their categorisation by two paragraphs or less. Given that the average number of paragraphs counted was 19 in the first review and 23 in the second review, one or two paragraphs deviation would appear consistent enough to provide feedback guidance to the students. [Tables 1 and 2 here]

The tables suggest that there was some variation in the consistency between the different classification categories. This might suggest that certain statements in the rubric may have been more difficult to interpret than others. Nevertheless, these differences were not replicated between the two reviews suggesting that it is not possible to draw conclusions on the clarity of the rubric from this data.

Reflective Practice

Consistency between peer and self ratings

The mean number of paragraphs counted in each category for each student during the peer review was compared to the counts, for the students' self-evaluations. At the point of the first review the sample size for this is reduced as some of the students believed (wrongly) that they did not need to record their own self-assessment on the on-line system. 25 students were reviewed by themselves as well as their peers. The percentage of students whose ratings were either identical to their peers, or differed by a number of paragraphs are shown in tables 3 and 4.

[Tables 3 and 4 here]

The self-reviews on the whole appeared to show a greater spread in terms of their deviation from the peer review mean, often with over 20% of the students by more than 4 paragraphs in particular categories. By the second review a greater percentage of students were giving identical ratings to their peer review mean, but at the same time there were some substantial deviations. There was however no clear evidence to suggest that students were consistently under, or over rating themselves with roughly similar numbers of students rating each side of the peer-review mean. Closer inspection of the data suggested that a small number of students provided paragraph counts in their self-reviews that consistently varied from their peer reviewers across all nine categories, but the majority tended to be very close to their peer reviewers (by two paragraphs or less) in all but one or two categories. Those students whose self-ratings varied significantly from their peer ratings in the second review tended to be the same students who had a significant difference in the first review, or those who did not selfreview themselves in the first review, suggesting that they hadn't established a mental benchmark of what the standards in the criteria meant. This suggests that some students may have had a different perception as to the level that a paragraph was written at. It may also suggest that the student's intention was to write critically, but the written work was not interpreted as so by others, or that students were unaware that they were being reflective.

Impact on Students

For those students whose portfolios were peer-reviewed on both occasions, it was possible to compare their average ratings at the first assessment and at the second assessment. One would expect that if the process of peer reviewing had had a positive effect on the writing, then the students would have a larger proportion of paragraphs categorised at a higher level of reflection, and a smaller proportion categorised at the lower levels. The data summarised in Table 5 suggests that this was the case across all three of the foci with effect sizes of between 0.5 and 0.7. A repeated measures t-test suggested that these changes were statistically significant to at least the 95% level of certainty. As the total numbers of paragraphs categorised would vary between the first and second review, a figure for the proportion of paragraphs in each category was calculated, by dividing the number of paragraphs in each category, with the total number of paragraphs counted for each student.

[Table 5 here]

Those students who didn't complete a portfolio in time for the first review were obviously excluded from this initial analysis. Given that this group still reviewed other people's portfolios, but did not have their portfolios reviewed on the first attempt, it is useful to determine whether the group who had been reviewed twice, were writing with higher levels of reflection following the first review, compared to the others. This was supported statistically with a significantly higher proportion of paragraphs being written in the high-project and high-person categories by those had been reviewed twice. One might also expect that the number of paragraphs coded at low levels would be lower for those whose work had been reviewed twice (Table 6). Whilst the raw figures suggest this to be the case, the

Reflective Practice

differences were not sufficient to be statistically significant. This slightly mixed result might be explained by the fact that some students who were not reviewed at the first stage, were still benefiting from carrying out the peer review process.

[Table 6 here]

This explanation was supported by additional data collected at the time of the second review. Students were asked to rate on a 5 point likert scale from strongly agree to disagree whether "Reviewing other students portfolios has helped me to develop my own portfolio" and "The feedback provided following the first review has helped me to develop my own portfolio". Approximately 60% of the students either agreed or strongly agreed that the reviewing other students portfolios had been of benefit, with the majority of the remainder were neutral. However, only 15% of the students agreed or strongly agreed that the feedback provided had been helpful. Students were also asked to provide free-text comments and these comments supported the numerical ratings. A number of students commented on how useful the process of reviewing other students. It was noted by one student that the process had changed his approach to writing his own blog, but notes, as suggested above, that the process of reviewing was more valuable than the feedback provided.

"I found reading the blogs of others interesting and enjoyable and it certainly changed my approach to my own. I think that, even if I had useful feedback, the reviewing process would remain more useful for the development of my own work."

Conclusions

The analysis above suggests that the process of asking students to peer-review each other's work was a useful exercise. The results suggest that there were clear improvements in the level of reflection provided in the writing of the students following the first stage review.

What was also apparent was that it appeared that the process of carrying out the peer and selfreviews was more valuable than the feedback that the process generated. This concurs with research by Rust et al (2003) suggesting that a fuller understanding of assessment criteria can lead to an improvement of student work. Further work by Bell et al (2012) suggests that this leads to questions as to how students use the assessment criteria. In some cases students use assessment criteria as a 'recipe' for further improvement; many however use the criteria as a guide or framework for completing an assessment task. Further research is needed related to the provided rubric to get a better understanding of how students are using the criteria provided here. One concern in the present research is the apparent inconsistency of students' assessment of their own work, by comparison with the consistency of assessment between peer reviewers. Dunning(2004) argued that self-assessments typically over inflate an individual's performance, but in this case the results were rather more mixed – with some students significantly over-estimating themselves, and others under-estimating themselves. These differences again may be a result of the way that students understand and interpret the assessment criteria. This may also be an aspect of when students assess their own work; they supplement what is written with tacit knowledge from their own experiences. They base their assessment on that entire picture, rather than a more limited view that their peer reviewers will see.

Limitations and opportunities for further research

With the exception of the brief questionnaire that was completed at the time of the second submission, the data for this research was largely based on data collected as part of an assessment exercise. Ethical reasons meant that it was not possible to set up control groups of students who did not undertake the peer-review exercise, and the comparison groups were therefore self-selected, based on whether work had been submitted on time. The data

Reflective Practice

collection method was designed to balance simplicity of judgement (by counting paragraphs) with collection of a rigorous data set that that could be used for evaluation of the exercise and perhaps this precluded the possibilities of making a more holistic judgement.

The research was also limited in that only student ratings were included. Whilst the author as course tutor was required to grade the work as part of a final assessment requirement, there was no independent tutor rating that could be compared with the students' ratings. Furthermore whilst anecdotally, the student work from the cohort studied here did appear to show higher levels of reflection than in previous year (where no formal peer assessment took place), comparative data simply did not exist that could confirm this. One further limitation, already hinted upon is that the student blogs were marked by a member of staff, and were also made available to the entire cohort to read. These factors may well have limited the students' willingness to write expressively and openly; perhaps limiting their level of reflection. This is a difficult issue to address, given that if not assessed, or open, then it is unlikely that all students would engage in the exercise of writing reflectively (Roberts, 2009).

Despite these limitations, the exercise formed a useful pedagogic intervention that has seemingly improved student outputs. The prepared rubric seemed to be key to this success, by helping students think about what they should write about, and at what level. Whilst the focus of this report was a cohort of architecture students its findings are no doubt relevant to other professional disciplines who are attempting to improve students' level of reflection.

References

- Bain, J. D., Ballantyne, R., Packer, J., & Mills, C. (1999). Using Journal Writing to Enhance Student
 Teachers' Reflectivity During Field Experience Placements. *Teachers and Teaching*, 5(1), 51 73.
- Bain, J. D., Mills, C., Ballantyne, R., & Packer, J. (2002). Developing Reflection on Practice Through Journal Writing: impacts of variations in the focus and level of feedback. *Teachers and Teaching*, 8(2), 171 - 196.
- Bean, T. W., & Stevens, L. P. (2002). Scaffolding Reflection for Preservice and Inservice Teachers. *Reflective Practice*, 3(2), 205-218. doi: 10.1080/14623940220142343

- Bell, A., Kelton, J., McDonagh, N., Mladenovic, R., & Morrison, K. (2010). A critical evaluation of the usefulness of a coding scheme to categorise levels of reflective thinking. Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education, 36(7), 797-815. doi: 10.1080/02602938.2010.488795
- Bell, A., Mladenovic, R., & Price, M. (2012). Students' perceptions of the usefulness of marking guides, grade descriptors and annotated exemplars. Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education, 1-20.
- Black, P., & Wiliam, D. (1998). Assessment and Classroom Learning. Assessment in Education: Principles, Policy & Practice, 5(1), 7-74. doi: 10.1080/0969595980050102
- Boud, D., & Walker, D. (1998). Promoting reflection in professional courses: The challenge of context. *Studies in Higher Education, 23*(2), 191-206. doi: 10.1080/03075079812331380384
- Cartney, P. (2010). Exploring the use of peer assessment as a vehicle for closing the gap between feedback given and feedback used. Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education, 35(5), 551-564. doi: Pii 926292288
- 10.1080/02602931003632381
- Creme, P. (2005). Should student learning journals be assessed? Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education, 30(3), 287-296. doi: 10.1080/02602930500063850
- Dunning, D., Heath, C., & Suls, J. M. (2004). Flawed Self-Assessment. *Psychological Science in the Public Interest*, *5*(3), 69-106. doi: 10.1111/j.1529-1006.2004.00018.x
- Dyment, J. E., & O'Connell, T. S. (2011). Assessing the quality of reflection in student journals: a review of the research. *Teaching in Higher Education, 16*(1), 81-97. doi: 10.1080/13562517.2010.507308
- Ellis, G. (2001). Looking at Ourselves—Self-Assessment and Peer Assessment: Practice examples from New Zealand. *Reflective Practice*, 2(3), 289-302. doi: 10.1080/1462394012010303
- Falchikov, N., & Goldfinch, J. (2000). Student Peer Assessment in Higher Education: A Meta-Analysis Comparing Peer and Teacher Marks. *Review of Educational Research*, *70*(3), 287-322. doi: 10.3102/00346543070003287
- Hatton, N., & Smith, D. (1995). Reflection in teacher education: Towards definition and implementation. *Teaching and Teacher Education*, *11*(1), 33-49.
- Kember, D., Jones, A., Loke, A., Mckay, J., Sinclair, K., Tse, H., . . . Yeung, E. (1999). Determining the level of reflective thinking from students' written journals using a coding scheme based on the work of Mezirow. *International Journal of Lifelong Education*, 18(1), 18 - 30.
- McCarthy, J. (2011). Reflective Writing, Higher Education and Professional Practice. *Journal of Education in the Built Environment*, 6(1), 15.
- Mezirow, J. (1991). *Transformative dimensions of adult learning* (1st ed ed.). San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.
- Moon, J. A. (1999). *Reflection in learning and professional development : theory and practice*. London: Kogan Page.
- Nicol, D. J., & Macfarlane-Dick, D. (2006). Formative assessment and self-regulated learning: a model and seven principles of good feedback practice. *Studies in Higher Education*, *31*(2), 199-218. doi: 10.1080/03075070600572090
- Orsmond, P., & Merry, S. (2011). Feedback alignment: effective and ineffective links between tutors' and students' understanding of coursework feedback. *Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education, 36*(2), 125-136. doi: 10.1080/02602930903201651
- Roberts, A. (2009). Encouraging reflective practice in periods of professional workplace experience: the development of a conceptual model. *Reflective Practice*, *10*(5).
- Rust, C., Price, M., & O'Donovan, B. (2003). Improving Students' Learning by Developing their Understanding of Assessment Criteria and Processes. Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education, 28(2), 147-164. doi: 10.1080/02602930301671
- Sadler, D. R. (1989). FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT AND THE DESIGN OF INSTRUCTIONAL-SYSTEMS. Instructional Science, 18(2), 119-144. doi: 10.1007/bf00117714

1 2 З

1		
4 5		
5		
0		
1		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
10		
20		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		
26		
27		
28		
29		
30		
31		
32		
33		
34		
35		
36		
37		
20		
30		
39		
40		
41		
42		
43		
44		
45		
46		
47		
48		
49		
50		
51		
52		
53		
50		
54		
50		
20		
5/		
58		
59		
60		

- Samuels, M., & Betts, J. (2007). Crossing the threshold from description to deconstruction and reconstruction: using self-assessment to deepen reflection. Reflective Practice, 8(2), 269-283. doi: 10.1080/14623940701289410
- Stewart, S., & Richardson, B. (2000). Reflection and its Place in the Curriculum on an Undergraduate Course: Should it be assessed? Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education, 25(4), 369-380. doi: 10.1080/713611443
- Sumsion, J., & Fleet, A. (1996). Reflection: can we assess it? Should we assess it? Assessment & *Evaluation in Higher Education, 21*(2), 121-130. doi: 10.1080/0260293960210202
- . t . e assess. . j pedagogic pi . j23967026413 Yorke, M. (2003). Formative assessment in higher education: Moves towards theory and the

	High Reflection	Medium Reflection	Low Reflection		
Project Focus	Critical Review	Explanation	Description		
	Provides a critical review of the building or project.	Provides information about the project, but makes links to the reasons why things are as	Describes aspects of project, for instance client requirements, schedules etc.		
	Role Evaluation	they are.	Outlines what they have done.		
	Students evaluate their contribution towards the project.	Outlines what they have found challenging and why.	Outlines how things were done on the project (not necessarily what they did).		
		Outlines how they contributed towards the project and interacted with others.			
Profession or	Theorisation	Generalisation	Observation		
ractice ocus	Proposes some novel theory about how practices work.	Generalises observations within their practice to wider practice. Makes	Observes nature of individual's practice/office Describes context.		
	Critically evaluates process.	comparison with other prior experience.	Describes process observed within practice.		
	Improves process. Expresses an opinion on success or failure, and gives reasoning.				
Personal	Transformation	Self Evaluation	Response		
Development focus	Highlights new insights.	Reflects on how they have developed.	Expresses a simple emotion (like, dislike).		
Profession or Practice Focus Personal Development ocus	Evaluates success in meeting challenges.	Shows emotions - but explains why these	Describes difficulty encountered, a challenging task.		
	Sees their experience in a new way.	occur.	Lists what has been learned or needs to have		
	Overall evaluation of impact of placement, very much generalised.	Explains how they have improved. Extracts skills rather than broad aspects.	been learned.		
	Shows high degree of introspection in terms of	Links practice and theory.	Lists things they need to do based on standard pre-conception, range of experience		
	understanding how they learn.	Evaluates benefit of experience and highlights carefully areas for improvement. What would they do better next time? Generally project/task specific.	within plan of work etc.		
		Outlines what has helped them to learn.			

Appendix 1: Summary of the nature of students' writing in the nine categories of level and focus of reflection. A rubric for assessment



Focus and Level Project Person Practice High Med Low High Med Low High Med Low 0 26% 8% 10% 18% 13% 8% 18% 3% 15% Average deviation (paragraphs) 59% 49% 49% 0-1 36% 41% 59% 49% 56% 41% 1-2 28% 23% 26% 15% 26% 26% 28% 31% 38% 2-3 8% 10% 0% 8% 8% 8% 3% 5% 5% 3-4 5% 3% 5% 5% 3% 8% 0% 0% 0% >4 0% 0% 8% 3% 3% 3% 0% 3% 3%

Table 1: consistency between reviewers in first review

Note: percentages represent the proportion of reviewers deviating from the mean number of paragraphs counted for each student reviewed.

Table 2: consistency between reviewers in second review

			Focus and Level									
			Project			Person		Practice				
		High	Med	Low	High	Med	Low	High	Med	Low		
nc	0	17%	11%	22%	11%	11%	14%	14%	25%	17%		
iatic hs)	0-1	50%	42%	31%	50%	50%	50%	53%	42%	50%		
dev rapl	1-2	19%	36%	28%	25%	33%	22%	22%	25%	19%		
ge (rag	2-3	8%	8%	8%	11%	3%	6%	3%	6%	6%		
rera (pa	3-4	0%	3%	6%	0%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%		
¥	>4	6%	0%	6%	3%	0%	6%	6%	0%	6%		

Note: percentages represent the proportion of reviewers deviating from the mean number of paragraphs counted for each student reviewed.



			Project		Focι	is and L Person	evel	Practice		
		High	Med	Low	High	Med	Low	High	Med	Low
ce v is)	0	12%	12%	12%	12%	8%	12%	16%	12%	8%
solute differen om peer reviev an (paragraph	0-1	64%	32%	20%	40%	44%	44%	52%	20%	52%
	1-2	16%	20%	20%	36%	24%	12%	12%	28%	20%
	2-3	4%	16%	8%	4%	16%	16%	12%	24%	12%
	3-4	4%	0%	12%	0%	4%	8%	0%	16%	0%
Ab ne	>4	0%	20%	28%	8%	4%	8%	8%	0%	8%

Table 3: consistency between self and peer reviewers in first review

Note: percentages represent the proportion of self- reviews that differed from the mean paragraph count for the peer review of each student reviewed.

Table 4: consistency between self and peer reviewers in second review

		Focus and Level								
			Project			Person		Practice		
		High	Med	Low	High	Med	Low	High	Med	Low
v v Is)	0	20%	13%	13%	23%	3%	15%	13%	13%	20%
solute differen om peer revie an (paragraph	0-1	30%	25%	20%	28%	30%	28%	30%	30%	35%
	1-2	18%	23%	28%	10%	23%	23%	25%	23%	20%
	2-3	10%	5%	10%	13%	13%	13%	10%	20%	10%
	3-4	3%	3%	5%	5%	10%	5%	5%	5%	0%
Ab fr	>4	20%	33%	25%	23%	23%	18%	18%	10%	15%

Note: percentages represent the proportion of self- reviews that differed from the mean paragraph count for the peer review of each student reviewed.

second review ($N=35$).											
	Level and Focus										
		Project			Person			Practice			
	High	Med	Low	High	Med	Low	High	Med	Low		
1st review	7%	13%	15%	7%	15%	11%	7%	13%	11%		
2nd Review	10%	15%	10%	11%	15%	8%	11%	13%	7%		
t value	2.001	1.17	-2.26	2.897	-0.2	-3.27	1.834	-0.23	-1.94		
p (1 tail)	0.027	0.125	0.015	0.003	0.422	0.001	0.038	0.409	0.03		
Effect size (cohen's d)	0.489	0.244	-0.57	0.616	-0.05	-0.69	0.448	-0.05	-0.53		

Table 5: proportion of paragraphs written at each level and focus between the first and second review (N=35).

Table 6: proportion of paragraphs written at each level and focus in the second review for those who had received feedback after the first review and those who had not

	Level and Focus									
		Project			Person		Practice			
	High	Med	Low	High	Med	Low	High	Med	Low	
reviewed at stage 1 (N=35)	10%	15%	10%	11%	15%	8%	11%	13%	7%	
not reviewed at stage 1 (N=19)	6%	17%	12%	8%	18%	7%	8%	13%	10%	
t value	2.51	-1.09	-0.86	1.98	-1.72	0.30	1.05	-0.01	-1.23	
p (1 tail)	0.01	0.14	0.20	0.03	0.05	0.38	0.15	0.49	0.11	
Effect size (cohen's d)	0.642	-0.36	-0.27	0.525	-0.53	0.098	0.319	-0	-0.36	

