

MoRe (or) reflecting while dusting?

Developing reflection on-the-go within Academic Development

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Abstract

Developing reflective skills is vital to grow and evolve as a practitioner within the HE community. Social media in combination with mobile technologies provide excellent opportunities for extending teaching and learning and enabling the development of reflective practice in more creative ways.

The Mobile Reflections (MoRe) model developed by this researcher utilises freely available social media, such as Wordpress and iPadio, in combination with mobile phones owned by students. These have been successfully used in a MoRe small-scale trial, with dyslexics in Initial Teacher Training and transformed reflection into a flexible, personalised and collaborative developmental activity according to the findings of this trial. This solution therefore presents an attractive and highly sustainable teaching and learning intervention for different teaching and learning contexts.

Currently, an ePortfolio integrated MoRe model is being used within the Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice (PGCAP) at the University of Salford to facilitate the development of reflective skills through capturing reflections of feedback conversations on peer, tutor and mentor observations. Previously, recording timely and media-rich reflections have proven frustrating for some participants and resulted in reduced ongoing capturing of reflections and therefore missed opportunities for formative feedback by tutors and peers.

Can the MoRe model enhance the process of developing reflective skills on-the-go? This is a hands-on workshop. All participants will be engaged throughout. First, the MoRe idea, concept, rationale and applications so far will be shared briefly and participants will be invited to participate in a short activity. This will give everybody the chance to trial the approach. A small group speed-PBL activity linked to a specific teaching and learning situation will follow to explore additional possibilities of the MoRe model in a variety of teaching and learning situations, professional and work-based contexts. Finally, findings will be shared and opportunities identified by participants to trial the MoRe approach in their own professional area. A mobile phone is required to fully participate in this workshop.

Keywords

Social media, academic development, mobile learning, media-rich reflection, peer observation, reflective practitioner, ePortfolio