

## **Exit Self-Assessment, Maria Nardi June 2015**

### **I. "My Synthesis Product Shows That..."**

*A. I can convey who I want to influence/affect concerning what (Subject, Audience, Purpose)*

+ I have gained fluidity in explaining to writers that we all hold stereotypes and that they may be life saving, but we need to raise awareness, and review them constantly, so people (we all) understand the role perception plays in the face of assimilating information to interpret the same reality so we all are more understanding and empathetic with each other.

Δ. Interviewing was something I struggled with, it was difficult to reach people from the government side. Conveying that I wanted to motivate dialogue was not an easy task, they did not see the space or the need for it, and I was not as successful as I wanted to be in conveying to them what I wanted to. As a reflective practitioner I have developed strategies for a new experience where I will face the task differently and with new resources I am developing and new approaches on my side so I am better prepared to convey my ideas and engage my audience.

*B. I know what others have done before, either in the form of writing or action, that informs and connects with my project, and I know what others are doing now.*

+ I reviewed literature on phases of research and engagement, dialogue and action research that supported my work, I practiced and developed as an action researcher during my work, I matured as a respectful observer and empathetic facilitator.

Δ. There is so much work out there on dialogue, conflict resolution, etc. to be reviewed. I feel I should be an anthropologist, a sociologist, a psychologist, a coach, and all the above at once to be well prepared for such a complex and demanding endeavour, but then I remember working in teams is something I learned how to do as a software developer and something we learned at CCT as well, PBL and collaborative explorations are tools we have in our box and I know how to use!

*C. I have teased out my vision, so as to expand my view of issues associated with the project, expose possible new directions, clarify direction/scope within the larger set of issues, and decide the most important direction.*

+ I have mapped out my scope and I have a direction, I have a clear view of what and where I want to achieve.

Δ. During synthesis I had limited resources, time, money, and capacity to reach people, and how to present myself to them. I hope to get a grant to keep working and the support of an organization ... a neutral one so I can support my idea and keep going and achieve my goals.

*D. I have identified the premises and propositions that my project depends on, and can state counter-propositions. I have taken stock of the thinking and research I need to do to counter those counter-propositions or to revise my own propositions.*

+ I do have that done from 694

Δ. I forgot, but I will review them ☺

*E. I have clear objectives with respect to product, both written and practice, and process, including personal development as a reflective practitioner. I have arranged my work in a sequence (with realistic deadlines) to realize these objectives.*

+ I presented my synthesis on time and finished my interviews and video

Δ. I did not finished my written part and then felt behind with it

*F. I have gained direct information, models, and experience not readily available from other sources.*

+ I created my interviews and own account of facts and combination of several sources and theories that gives the reader a combination of reasoning to choose from that I consider innovative for the Venezuelan case

Δ. I needed more time to have a deeper and more coherent structure of the parts of my synthesis

*G. I have clarified the overall progression or argument underlying my research and the written reports.*

+ I have advanced in identifying the pieces of the story I want to magnify (put he focus on) (1992 attempt to overthrow President Pérez, Caracazo, Chávez death, Maduros' election, 2015 commercial and financial crises,etc), and the concepts I want to study relating to them(perception, stereotypes, empathy and the lack of it, story, structures, etc)

Δ. To motivate Dialogue Processes and act as a facilitator, writer, or simply an impartial observer, is still a big challenge for me since I view things from my own side and hold my opinion on the issues at hand.

*H. My writing and other products Grab the attention of the readers/audience, Orient them, move them along in Steps, so they appreciate the Position I've led them to.*

+ The video I have shared with several friends, colleagues, and coworkers and all agree we should make it viral. I am not comfortable with it since I did not ask for permission to share the interviews publicly... but I will ask the people in them to see if I can freely use them and see in what ways can we share...

Δ. My synthesis has been reworked according to my tutor comments since it needed to GOSP my audience, I will pay more attention to that in my writings

*I. I have facilitated new avenues of classroom, workplace, and public participation.*

+ I have been invited to teach at IESA (graduate school of Business Admin and Public Policy), I have a new job as a consultant, I am sharing my work with several NGOs and I am on my way to create new videos and interviews with them

Δ. Finishing CCT was a challenge since I got involved in too much at the same time

*J. To feed into my future learning and other work, I have taken stock of what has been working well and what needs changing.*

+ Definitely, just journaling, which I have been doing as a habit since a very young age, and did again with Jeremy in most of his courses shows and reports my work as a reflective researcher... I do take stock, and plan for next iterations, that is also the nature of software development, so it is in me embedded by habit of life, and training as a professional

## **II. Developing as a Reflective Practitioner, Including Taking Initiatives in and Through Relationships**

1. *I have integrated knowledge and perspectives from CCT and other courses into my own inquiry and engagement in social and/or educational change.*

+ Theory of the Mind, advance Cognitive S, Biology, Scientific and Political Change, among

many other classes plus participation in Collaborative Explorations, and other events and conversations made possible by CCT during my experience there helped integrated a lot of new concepts and changed my approach to problem solving, learning and decision making.

Δ. I still have not directly accepted any position in education and miss the educational context in my day to day activities since I graduated from cct

2. *I have also integrated into my own inquiry and engagement the processes, experiences, and struggles of previous courses.*

+ Topics like the ones mentioned above are now core part of my inquiry, when I started CCT I was just curious, now I feel engaged in research, I just need time and money to keep researching.

Δ. I do not formally have a space in my life to continue my CCT work now that CCT is over  
☹ I really miss CCT, Peter, Jeremy, Orin, and my classmates already... And Boston!!!

3. *I have developed efficient ways to organize my time, research materials, computer access, bibliographies, etc.*

+ I learned that citations, phrases, important books and articles need to be recorded as bibliographic sources in an organized way from the start, otherwise at the end it all becomes confusing and it is really difficult to go back to sources of information and who said what, and where did I read what....

Δ. Time needs to be formally saved for research and writing everyday, otherwise work and others take over and it is difficult to finish things, to produce organizedly and ideas are lost, I need to dedicate slots of time daily to my writing or I feel sad, behind, depressed, and worthless intellectually, no matter how much I do at work, or how much money I get offered... My writing and Reading has an important space in my life. It needs respect.

4. *I have experimented with new tools and experiences, even if not every one became part of my toolkit as a learner, teacher/facilitator of others, and reflective practitioner.*

+ Journaling is something I use to do, and I did again and Works for me, as well as mapping and reaching out to other people. I am good at connecting with other people and I am doing it now at work, connecting all 3 tools, journaling to organize ideas, mapping to give a

whole picture and then once I have it clear reach out to others and seen the connections engaging the right people is proving a highly powerful tool in the real world. It makes things happen!!

Δ. Finishing work, rounding up and focusing on the tasks to take them to the end is still a challenge. I open up projects, dream and engage in several endeavours, but then sometimes leave them open and let the strings loose too much. Need to focus on finishing or at least making sure I engage others enough so they finish it for me at work!

*5. I have paid attention to the emotional dimensions of undertaking my own project but have found ways to clear away distractions from other sources (present & past) and not get blocked, turning apparent obstacles into opportunities to move into unfamiliar or uncomfortable territory*

+ CCT helped me become more of a listener, a tolerant and open minded listener, although still partial ...

Δ. I still feel I am too stressed, taking an extra full load that I am sometimes unable to take care of by myself

*6. I have developed peer and other horizontal relationships. I have sought support and advice from peers, and have given support and advice to them when asked for.*

+ Teryl has been supporting my advances all along and been a support, and motivation to finish my work, reviewed and given advice. A key person when I needed it the most.

Δ. I was more involved with peers when I was in Boston, once I moved to Venezuela it was way more difficult to maintain a close relationship with peers. The only way to feel connected with students was through my work as a TA. I connected well during my advising as TA when I held office hours and supported students in their work and gave them advice and reviewed their work as they let me...

*7. I have taken the lead, not dragged my feet, in dialogue with my advisor and other readers. I didn't wait for them to tell me how to solve an expository problem, what must be read and covered in a literature review, or what was meant by some comment I didn't understand. I didn't put off giving my writing to my advisor and other readers or avoid talking to them because I thought that they didn't see things the same way as I do.*

+Δ.mixed up I had difficulty being as objective a writer as my advisor wanted me to, but I made

a huge effort of research to do so. Although I know I did not succeed in doing so, and he gave up somehow in trying to take me to be an impartial observer, I see the result of my work as an enriched work of research that is not only going to be read by the opposition, as my advisor insisted will end up if I did not change my style at the beginning...

*8. I have revised seriously, which involved responding to the comments of others. I came to see this not as bowing down to the views of others, but taking them in and working them into my own reflective inquiry until I could convey more powerfully to others what I'm about (which may have changed as a result of the reflective inquiry).*

+ Combines with 7, I did take longer than expected reviewing my synthesis since I had to incorporate more research, and review more Venezuelan history to allow for the government arguments to have a place in my writing so I would not sound so biased in my opinions. I hope I gave balance to my work... And I sure ended up with a lot of new ideas for more research and a lot of work to be done, and a more open mind ready to keep working on my sensitized dialogue spaces. That in itself means a lot to me as a reflective practitioner.

Δ. I should have started earlier in the semester with a clearer path in my research so I would have been done in May. Work and the end of the synthesis overlapped in June and I have been really stressed personally and that was not fun at all...

*9. I have inquired and negotiated about formal standards, but gone on to develop and internalize my own criteria for doing work—criteria other than jumping through hoops set by the professor so I get a good grade.*

+ I came up with a coherent piece of work, and I feel I can continue and do more from where I left synthesis...

Δ. I realized I need to follow a more organized method to do research, mostly with cites and bibliography since when I was ready to put it all together it was so difficult to find all my readings, cites, authors books, papers, and at the end I sacrificed depth, for accuracy and cut a lot of sources just not to have to look for all the readings I had done all long CCT. I would have never ending putting it all together on time to deliver my work...

*10. I have approached the CCT synthesis course and the CCT program as works-in-progress,*

*which means that, instead of harboring criticisms to submit after the fact, I have found opportunities to affirm what is working well and to suggest directions for further development.*

+ I love CCT, the program, the people, and what I have learned and how I have changed as a person, and a professional during the time I invested in it... I recommended to any person willing to invest the time and money it takes to join it. It is worth every second, every penny, every effort!

Δ. At CCT there is enough structure, and enough flexibility to make it worth everything I said at +, and to waste all your time and money if you want to try to fool yourself and the program... My opinion is that CCT is for mature and authentic individuals that want to really make a conceptual change in their personal and professional path at some point in their lifetimes... Not for everybody, not to waste neither theirs, nor others time and efforts.  
BEWARE!!!