

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

Comments from my reader (who is outside the CCT program) indicated that I clearly articulated how the application of CCT skills first changed and then directed the new course of my synthesis. This was something I struggled with. I wanted to make sure that anyone could pick up this paper, read it, and perhaps find some inspiration in learning about CCT and what it could do for them. Going forward I hope to be better able to (and more quickly) convey the premises of CCT, and become more nature in applying the practices of CCT to all aspects of my life.

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 now know I am not alone in my struggle to unleash my creativity and hone my critical thinking skills. This is why an author like Robert Fritz writes about the creative process, or why R.S. Nickerson writes about improving critical thinking skills. Going forward I will continue to seek instruction/opportunities to practice these skills and find others of a like mind with whom I can share these struggles or learning opportunities.

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.

In using the fishbone diagram, I identified many 'growth moments' in my life that I had not previously been aware of. It allowed me to identify trends in my life and career I had not known were there. By identifying the positive trends I will seek out future opportunities to continue these trends. Identifying some negative trends will allow me to "watch out" and avoid them in the future. For example identifying and following my own expectations for myself rather than allowing others to dictate them to me.

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 have learned to trust my own judgment in identifying what is right for me in my life rather than looking for direction outside of myself. If I lapse in this respect, I need only to look back at the "sources" in my life I have identified that are important to me and see if the direction I am headed is towards my source or away from it. If I am headed away then it is time to realign.

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.

Rather than separating my career and life as I have done up until this point in my life, I have created a business/life plan which melds the two together. I have a realistic time line in which to achieve this goal and a plan to follow in reaching it. I expect that by September of this year I will have started a mini-version of The Cat's Pajama's which will allow for a gradual transition from my current employer to full self-employment.

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

Part of my original project was exploring the idea of a bed and breakfast and I think what I enjoyed most were the personal interviews I had with a few B&B owners. Books can only tell you so much; the real life experiences I heard about were helpful and encouraging. In regards to my final business plan, I intend to visit kennels to see what is already being done- what I could do better.

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

I was floundering in this aspect for quite a while- how would I clarify my progression to the reader? I think incorporating the fishbone diagram into the paper at key points (something my original paper did not have) solidified the path of the paper for the reader. If I did this again I think I would try to create an outline from the beginning which I did not do this time around. An outline will make me feel more directed.

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.

I feel I have done some very in-depth soul searching in formulating this business/life plan. Writing it out for synthesis made me clarify things I might have otherwise glossed over had this project been "for my eyes only." Knowing that I would have to make the reader understand my plan/progress etc. I feel I put a lot of time into getting the reader interested and then orientating/leading the reader through the paper. I think the explanation of the "melding" of a business and life plan could use more explanation if I were to add anything to the synthesis.

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

In creating this feline boarding facility at my home- I hope to exemplify to my clientele an individual's ability to incorporate life and work as one entity rather than two. I hope that -by example- I will help others find the peace of mind I am finding as I pursue this new avenue in my life. Going forward I hope to be able to help area shelters by providing foster care- perhaps make other cat owners aware of the plight of stray cats- maybe find some a new home!

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

I think what has worked out superbly well is the idea of melding my work and life-something I have never done before. Career was a necessary evil to support the lifestyle I felt I had to have to prove to others that I had "made it." Now I only want to prove it to myself- a very important realignment for me. Going forward I will continue to battle to "impress myself instead of others."

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.

As a real life example of incorporating CCT lessons- as a landlord I facilitated my 1st mediation between tenants last night. I found myself able to listen to both sides of the story as a neutral party and was able to ask the participants for their solutions rather than telling them what the solutions would be. I hope to continue my attempts at collaborations for solving problems- I have a tendency to try to solve everything myself.

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

Free writing is very useful tool that I now use at work a lot since I write a great deal. I used to find myself staring at a blank page for way too long as I attempted to "perfect" what I was going to say before putting pen to paper. Now I just write, and write, and write, until a thread starts to form that I can follow.

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

I have always been a pretty organized person but what I can say has improved is my ability to generate product while still researching, something I didn't used to do. I would collect and collect and collect until I felt I had all the necessary material to support whatever I was doing. Now I can get materials, start to create and adjust as necessary. In the future I hope to be able to do this more quickly; right now I still have to collect quite a bit before I start to write!

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.

As mentioned above- free writing and Action Research have been incorporated into my process. Methodological believing is also a new tool I use quite a bit- something that goes against my naturally cynical nature so, in the same breath, I am still working on that one.

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.

Not listening to the "self sensors" that are very active in my conscience was a big part of being able to create the business/life plan in my synthesis. Instead of saying "I can't do this because" I now say "I will do it in spite of that because".

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.

Making a very solid attempt at being present for everyone's final synthesis presentation was a new thing for me. Having always commuted to and from school, this is the first college experience where I felt I have made some solid connections with people on campus that I will try to maintain even after graduating. I looked forward to my peers comments and tried very hard to provide them with whatever support I could. I looked forward to seeing their final projects and I hoped to entertain them with mine rather than just going through the motions of a required piece of Synthesis.

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.

I wanted to get through synthesis on the first try so I did my best to get my materials to my readers, directors, editors etc. ASAP. When materials were returned to me I incorporated their suggestions and comments as quickly as possible and gave them back for further refinement.

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).

Although revision is a pain sometimes, I really hope that when all is said and done, someone besides me might one day read and take inspiration from what I have written. As that is the case, the revision became part of a necessary process to improve the final product. I hope to be able to look at future project revisions in the same positive way.

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.

Although I incorporated many suggestions, there were a few I rejected- something new to me! This was a personal project and for once, I was the expert on the subject! If a change did not feel right I was not going to make it no matter who told me to.

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.

My only issue with the CCT program is that not enough people know about it. Even though I am graduating, I feel as if I will continue to try to find ways to get the word out about the program. I think there are many who could use it.