Readings ReadMe and **OPTIONAL** Assignment for LM7-IT723- Reflection on Student Engagement

Developed by Rich Halstead-Nussloch on a CC-BY License on 24Apr22



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/ or send a letter to Creative Commons, PO Box 1866, Mountain View, CA 94042, USA.

## The IT7723 Story So Far

**In LM1**, we explored definitions, concepts and history of information technology (IT), the IT profession and what it includes and means to be an IT professional. We also prepared to work together throughout the course to increase our skills and capabilities to contribute to the IT profession, e.g., develop an IT Professional Tool Kit. Since IT is so large and ubiquitous, we also set the scope of this course for each of us to focus on IT strategy, IT policy, IT governance and at least one IT subject-matter domain (e.g., database, programming, security, user experience, web, etc.) pertinent to our IT practice.

**In LM2**, we explored strategy in general, business strategy, IT strategy and the relationships between business strategy, IT strategy, value creation, etc. Three key observations we made are: 1) the main goal of the IT function is *maximizing and sustaining value* for the organization; 2) the main purpose of the IT strategy is *alignment* of the IT with the organization; 3) IT strategy should guide the organization’s use of their limited IT resources in maximizing the value of IT to the organization. We also reviewed the role of frameworks, models, and best-practices in aiding strategic planning, and covered specific tools and templates for strategic planning as well.

**In LM3,** we explored policy in general discovering that it is connected to strategy and even more strongly linked to governance. We learned that IT policy can be defined as the administrative and operational procedures allowing and facilitating the disciplined and systematic implementation of sound and safe IT in support of organizational goals and business processes. Connecting to LM2, we learned that we set plans for IT through IT strategy to *maximize and sustain value* for the organization and then use IT policy to *implement our IT plans in a systematic and disciplined manner*. We also reviewed the role of frameworks, models, and best-practices in aiding setting up and implementing policy, and covered specific tools, examples, templates and advice for IT policy as well.

**In LM4**, we explored what is involved in IT governance, put IT policy, IT strategy, and IT governance all together and situated IT governance and that triad puzzle within your IT practice and transferred information as appropriate (with citations) to your A4, D2L Discussion, your IT7723 Tool Kit, your notes in an annotated bibliography, your IT7723 IT Professional Perspective Presentation, etc. Also, we transitioned to develop your perspective on how IT Strategy, IT Policy and IT Governance all fit and work together.

**In LM5** we asked you to read and reflect more deeply into a specific subject-matter-expert (SME) area of interest to you and along with covering that SME area and IT Strategy, IT Policy, and IT Governance, design, develop, implement an IT Professional Toolkit containing important tools and resources in those four areas. The tools should be useful to your IT Professional Practice.

**In LM6** we asked you to develop and notate and/or narrate an IT Professional Perspective Presentation.

**In LM7** we provide you the option to specifically earn contribution points by writing a reflective summary of your learning and experience in this course.

## What is reflective learning AKA reflective practice?

Barbara Bassot has written a comprehensive, definitive, academic guide [1] to guide teachers, learners and practitioners in *reflective learning and practices*. Bassot promotes Lucas’ [2] definition of reflective practice as “a systematic enquiry to improve and deepen our understanding of practice.” Wikipedia (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reflective_learning>) practically defines reflective learning as “a form of education in which the student reflects upon their learning experiences…” the goals of which are “the clarification and the creation of meaning in terms of self, which then lead to a changed conceptual perspective.”

With respect to the practice of IT professionals, my experience has shown that those who approach their practice systematically tend to do better, be more fulfilled, be recognized for their competent capabilities, and have more fun. This exercise aims to give you practice in reflecting upon your learning experience in this course and in doing so, clarify and create meaning for yourself and your perspective and practice as an IT professional.

## The OPTIONAL Assignment

The default method to determine your course engagement and requires nothing extra from you: Use D2L Analytics from your class activities

* + Percent topics read
  + Percent on-time assignments
  + Normalized class rank of discussions read
  + Normalized class rank of discussion posts and replies
  + For Section 01 only: Class meeting attendance and contributions

Instead of the D2L analytics you might OPTIONALLY spend 30 to 90 minutes writing a reflective summary about this course by answering the following three questions:

Q1) (20 Points) What is your primary audience for this reflective summary (please select one of the three options):

* **Your future self as a practicing IT Professional, two to five years down the road**. Here, you will want to write reflections that help you-
  + Remember this class and how it affected your IT practice
  + Understand your own process to develop and mature as an IT professional
* **Your family, where you want to describe and explain to them the impact of the course, certificate, and/or degree on you as a whole person**. To get started with this audience-
  + Why did you spend the time working on the course, certificate, and/or degree?
  + Why did you (or a sponsor) invest the funds?
* **Your employer or client, where you want to describe and explain to them the role of the course in**-
  + Increasing your capabilities to deliver value.
  + Developing your positive attitude and habits to work individually and on a team.

If you have doubt, choose the first one above to have your future self as the audience.

In a paragraph, briefly describe why you chose that audience. For example, describe the benefits of that audience to both you and your chosen audience.

Q2) (20 Points) What is your choice of (scaffolding) framework for organizing this reflective summary (please select one of the three options):

* **Your reflective discussion posts on D2L**. Here, you will want to adapt and curate reflections that you have already made to help you-
  + Reflect upon your formative reflections on how the course affected your IT practice to see if any have changed
  + Systematically develop a summative reflection on the course to understand how you learn, develop, and mature as an IT professional
* **Your reflective, post-course alignment of the course objectives with your career goals**. To get started-
  + Review your alignment of course with career goals in the first assignment. Want to change anything?
  + Going forward, how do you want to now align learning goals with career goals?
* **Your activities and accomplishments in each of the successive course assignments**-
  + For each of the assignments, reflect on the activities you pursued to complete it.
  + For each of the assignments, reflect on what you were able to accomplish and the value and professional fulfillment it provided.

If you have doubt, choose the last one above to organize by the course assignments.

In a paragraph, briefly describe why you chose that audience. For example, describe the benefits of that audience to both you and your chosen audience.

Q3) (60 Points) Aiming at the audience chosen in Q1 and using your organizing framework chosen in Q2, develop a summary or summative reflection for the course spanning at least a page. If you have doubts about what to do, write yourself reminders on whether and how each of the course assignments’ process and/or product supported your future success as an IT professional.

# References

1. Bassot, B. (Ed.). (2015). The Reflective Practice Guide: An interdisciplinary approach to critical reflection (1st ed.). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315768298>
2. Peter Lucas (1991) Reflection, New Practices, and the Need for Flexibility in Supervising Student Teachers, Journal of Further and Higher Education, 15:2, 84-93, DOI: [10.1080/0309877910150209](https://doi.org/10.1080/0309877910150209)

## Links to copyrighted material above are provided by permission as described in the following:

### EDUCAUSE Links (educause.edu)

Copyright:

<https://www.educause.edu/copyright>

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/1.0/legalcode>

Terms of Use: <https://www.educause.edu/terms-of-use>

### U.S. Government Materials and Websites, e.g., www.NIST.gov

<https://www.usa.gov/government-works>

### Wikipedia Links (Wikipedia.org)

Copyright:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Text_of_Creative_Commons_Attribution-ShareAlike_3.0_Unported_License>

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>

Terms of Use: <https://foundation.wikimedia.org/wiki/Terms_of_Use/en>