

Task 9: E-Portfolio Reflection Assignment

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As I reflect on my experience in this program evaluation course, I am pleased to say that I have met and maybe even exceeded the course objectives. Through various classroom activities and the program evaluation itself, I have gained a comprehensive understanding of program evaluation and its role in the field of human services.

One of the key objectives of the course was to effectively conduct a program evaluation. I feel that this objective was met through my exploration of research methods, agency description, and understanding population, stakeholders, and research. These topics allowed me to understand the essential components of an evaluation and how to gather and analyze data to determine the effectiveness of a program. As Boulmetis and Dutwin (2017) suggest, program evaluation is "a systematic method for collecting, analyzing, and using information to answer basic questions about a program" (p. 3). Through the course readings and class discussions, I gained a deep understanding of how to effectively conduct a program evaluation and apply its findings to program planning.

Additionally, I gained a comprehensive understanding of the role of research in the evaluation process and how evaluation is used in program planning. As Patton (2018) notes, "program evaluation can be used to support a wide range of decisions, from program improvement to policy advocacy" (p. 7). Through our discussions and class activities, I learned that evaluation is a valuable tool for program planning because it allows stakeholders to determine if a program is achieving its intended goals and objectives.

Another objective of the course was to recognize the role of stakeholders in the evaluation process. I learned that stakeholders play an important role in providing input and feedback that can inform the evaluation process. Through our class discussions, I gained an

understanding of the similarities and differences in the evaluator's role and stakeholder's role in the evaluation process. I also learned how to utilize stakeholder input in the evaluation process to ensure that all perspectives are considered. As Scriven (2018) notes, "stakeholders play an essential role in the evaluation process, as they bring a unique perspective and insight into the program" (p. 19). By engaging stakeholders in the evaluation process, evaluators can ensure that the program is meeting the needs of its intended audience.

In terms of areas where I felt I was most successful or improved the most, I would say that my writing skills have greatly improved. Through the process work of drafts, homework, and peer reviews, I was able to develop my writing skills and better communicate my ideas. Additionally, I improved my presentation skills through our many writing assignments and class discussions, which required me to think critically and articulate my thoughts clearly.

As I look forward to my future career in the field of human services, I see this course's content intersecting with my work in a number of ways. Firstly, I will be able to effectively conduct program evaluations in order to determine the effectiveness of the programs that I am involved in. Additionally, I will be able to utilize the feedback of stakeholders in the evaluation process and recognize the important role that they play in program planning. Finally, I see the skills that I have gained in this course as being transferable to a number of different settings and applications within the field of human services. Thank you for a wonderful learning experience.

## References

- Boulmetis, J., & Dutwin, P. (2017). *The ABCs of Evaluation: Timeless Techniques for Program and Project Managers*. John Wiley & Sons.
- Patton, M. Q. (2018). *Qualitative Research & Evaluation Methods*. SAGE.
- Scriven, M. (2018). *Key evaluation tasks and their logical relations*. *New Directions for Evaluation*, 2018(159), 19-32.