



**GREEN VENTURES**  
**Module 12, 2023/2024**  
**Finbarr Bradley**

**Final Essay - Keeping a Learning Diary**

***Purpose***

To provide structured reflection on learning, on events, on progress and regression, on personal learning, on related conversations, on your experience of collaborating with colleagues and on the ultimate realisation of this course's goals.

In a few words: It offers you a structured opportunity to reflect on your experiences on this course.

***In the Beginning ...***

You might commence by setting some relevant goals for yourself. What outcomes would you like to accomplish for yourself (and your group) by the end of the 3 weeks?

As time goes by, the likelihood is that these goals will change and become clearer. Do not 'correct' this original entry; you will lose important evidence of your early thinking. Write and date your clarified version of your goals. Then you will have evidence of your developing and emergent thinking. Try to dig deeper by explaining why you have changed your mind/clarified your thinking. Then you get an insight into how you learn.

***New Learning***

You should not just record the content of new learning; what you might find more useful to record is your reaction to what you are learning, how you feel about it; what adjustments you must make to your normal perspectives as a result and how the new learning fits with your thinking up to now.

***Some Themes***

**1 Values**

Your own and (later) your group colleagues' views about your project. Your commitment to making this work; what are you prepared to do? What are you not prepared to do?

## **2 Impact on your Role**

Note changes that you make in the ways you think and collaborate with others.

## **3 Problems and Challenges arising from the Project**

Record problems that you encounter and write down 'early' solutions. Discuss these and clarify your thinking.

## **4 Influence on your Role as Teacher and Learner**

Note when you were the source of learning for others and when you learned from others. Record how you fulfilled these roles. What made you effective in these roles?

## **5 Experience of Collaboration**

You are expected to work as a member of a group. How has this been for you? Write about the ways your colleagues learn, particularly if it is different to your approach. How comfortable are you with your role in the group?

## **6 Surprises and Serendipitous Events**

Take note of events, conversations etc that surprise you. Be open to serendipity – what some describe as 'luck', 'karma' 'providence' or 'happy coincidence'.

### ***At Regular Intervals***

Re-read your Learning Diary and note how your thinking is evolving.

### **Final Words**

I regard your Learning Diary as deeply personal. However, I may ask you from time to time if you'd like to share part of your text with the class, but I will never ask for the whole Diary. You may be asked to share only extracts that you are comfortable sharing.

At the end of the 3 weeks, you will submit an Essay that will contain the evolution of your thinking over the course. Your Learning Diary will contain the evidence of this growth.