

Enhancing student involvement through action-learning residential workshops

Robert Bowen, Sophie Bennett
Aberystwyth Business School
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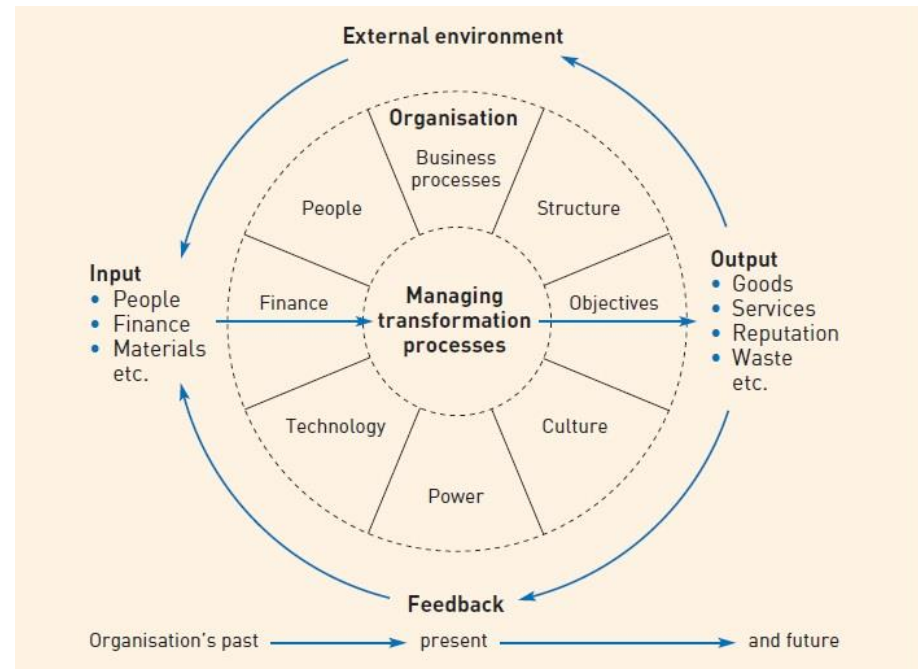
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The Idea

2-day Leadership Workshop for Business and Law students at Gregynog Hall.

- Action learning
- Develop creativity
- Residential workshop



Leadership

Company away days are a popular way to develop team-building and leadership skills



Developing Creativity

- Traditional learning methods not open to creativity – think outside the box
- Creativity essential in Business
 - Entrepreneurship
 - Marketing



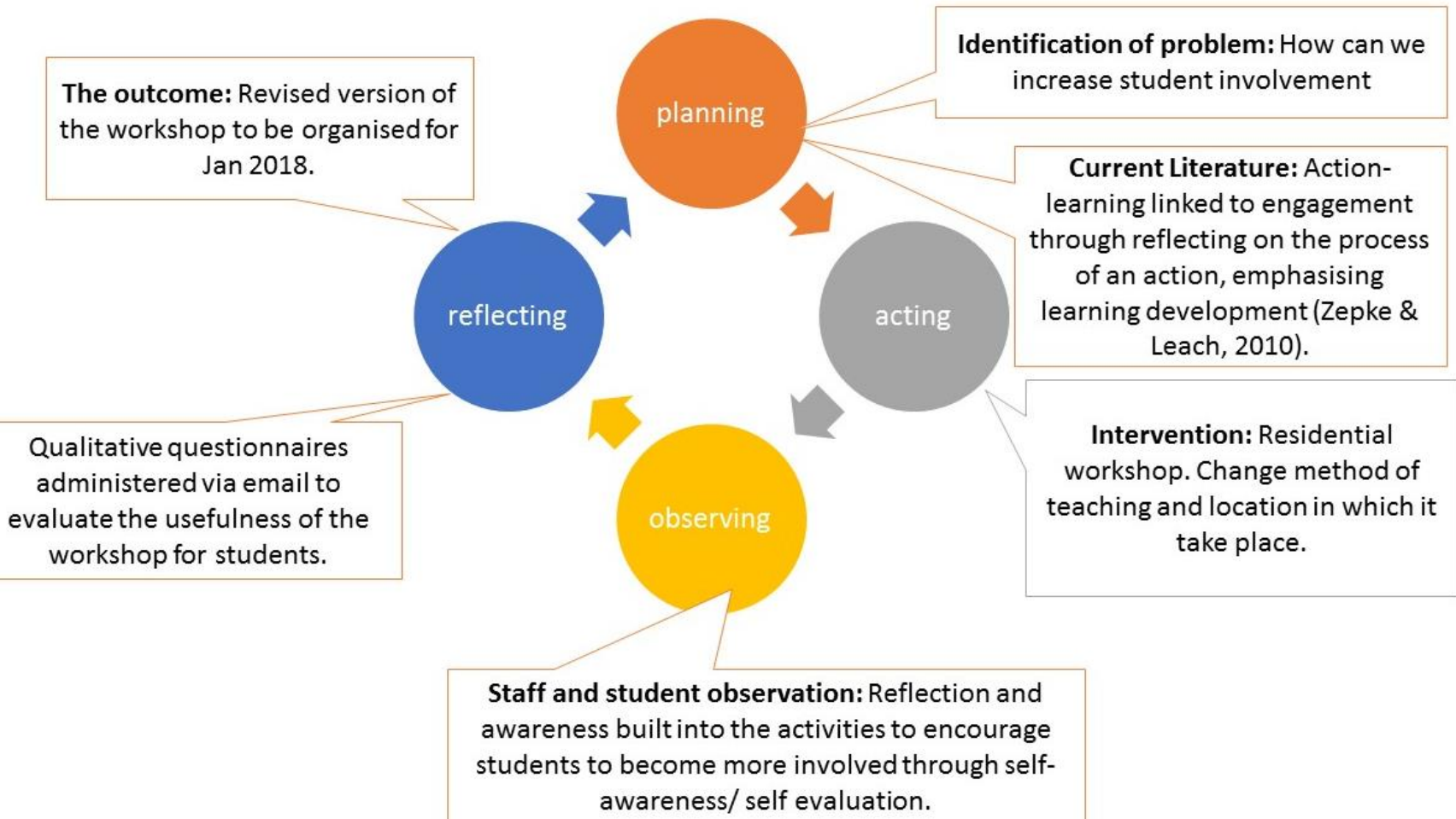
Residential Workshop

- Stepping outside the box
- Outside comfort zone
- Chance to develop mix groups across disciplines



Teaching Philosophy - Action Learning

Offer a range of active learning methods providing students with the opportunity to apply what they learn



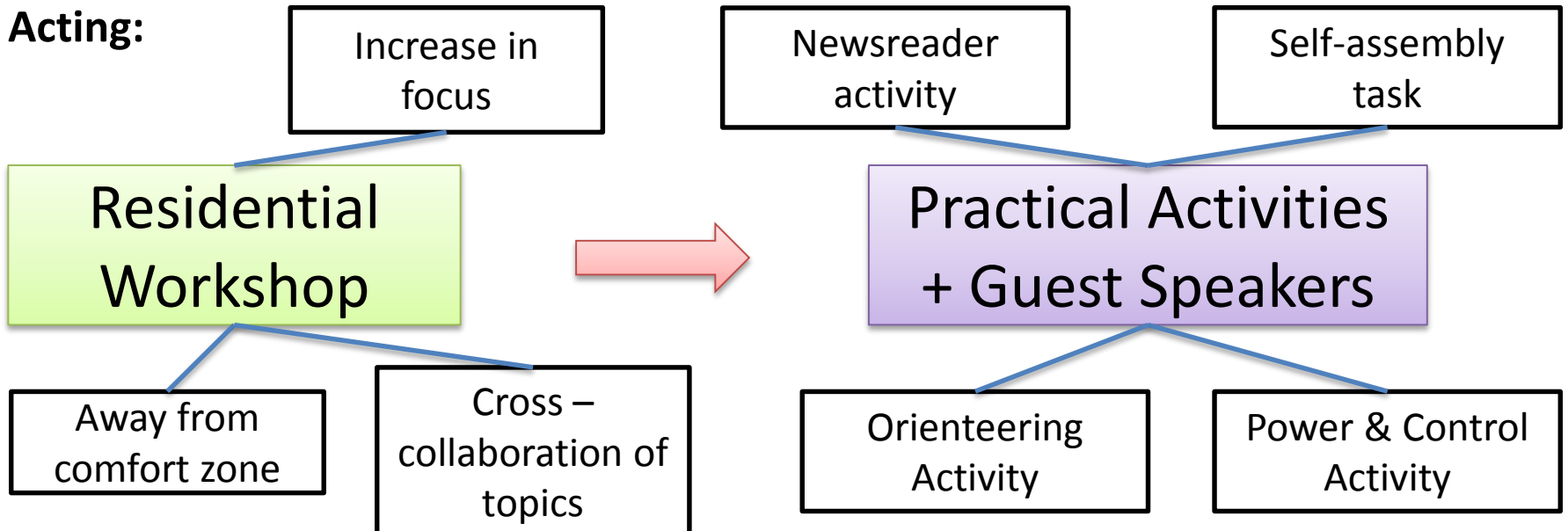
Planning, Acting,

Identification of Problem:

- How can we increase student involvement?
- How can we put leadership theory into practice – difficult to learn leadership from theory alone?

'there is a lot of theory covered in this module and it is a lot to take in' (MEQ Response to a Business Leadership module, 2017)

Acting:





Observing

Reflective practice occupies a central position in teacher and student training within the UK. It has a seductive allure for higher educational institutions because of its ability to mediate between theoretical knowledge and practical application (Loughran, 2002)

Student Reflection in De-brief sessions :

- How do you think you did in that task overall?
- What went well, what didn't go so well?
- How did you create your team structure (natural leaders or all took on the leadership role?)
- Why do we use this type of team building activity in workplace development?

Staff Observation of Students:

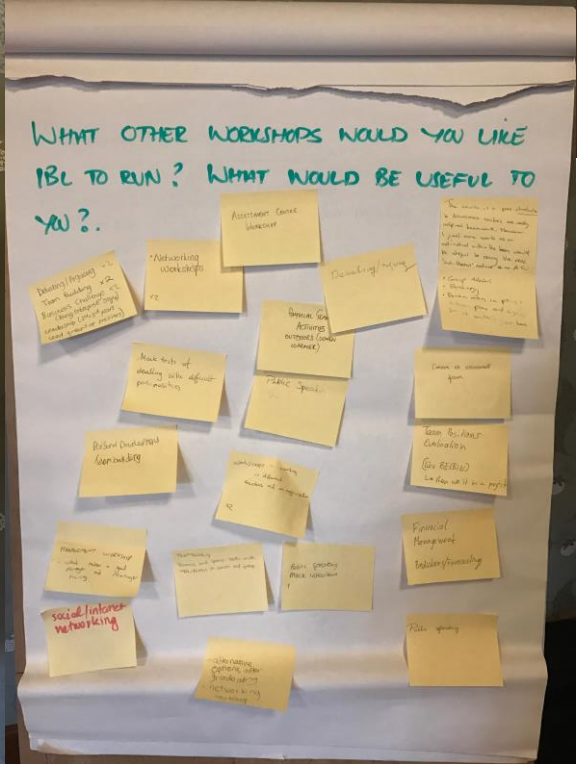
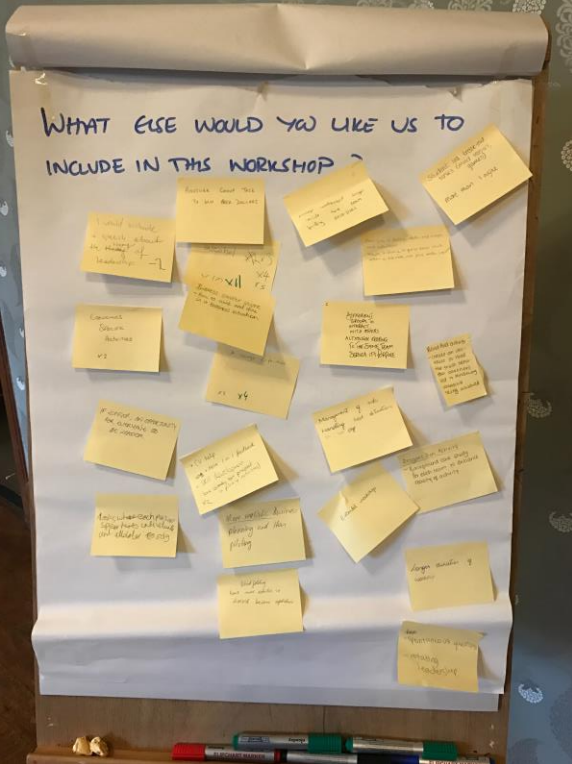
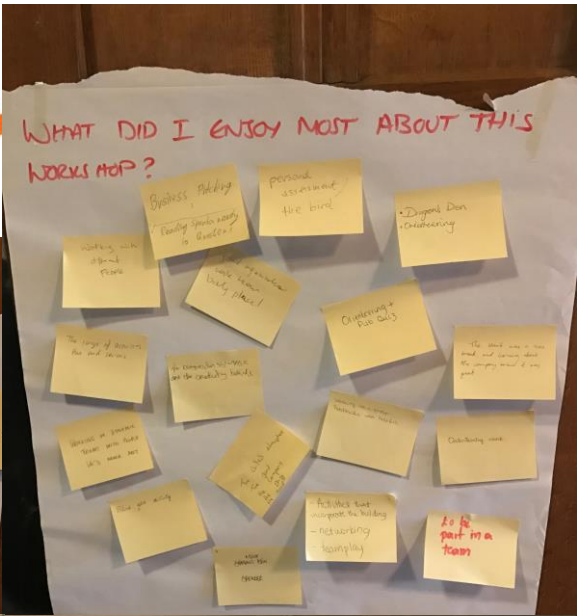
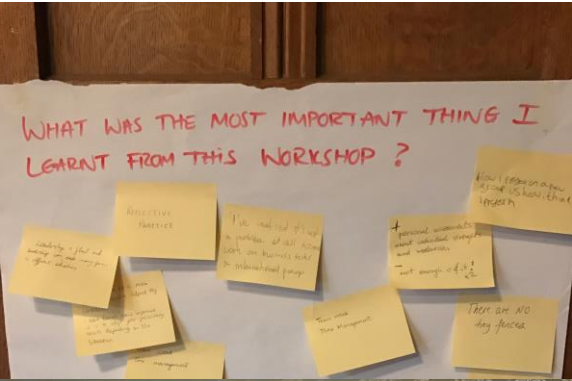
Individual contribution:

professionalism, natural behaviour, energy and enthusiasm

Group Contribution: Dominant or confident, assertive or aggressive, diplomacy, timekeeping.

Presentation: structure, engaging, well-rehearsed, clear communication

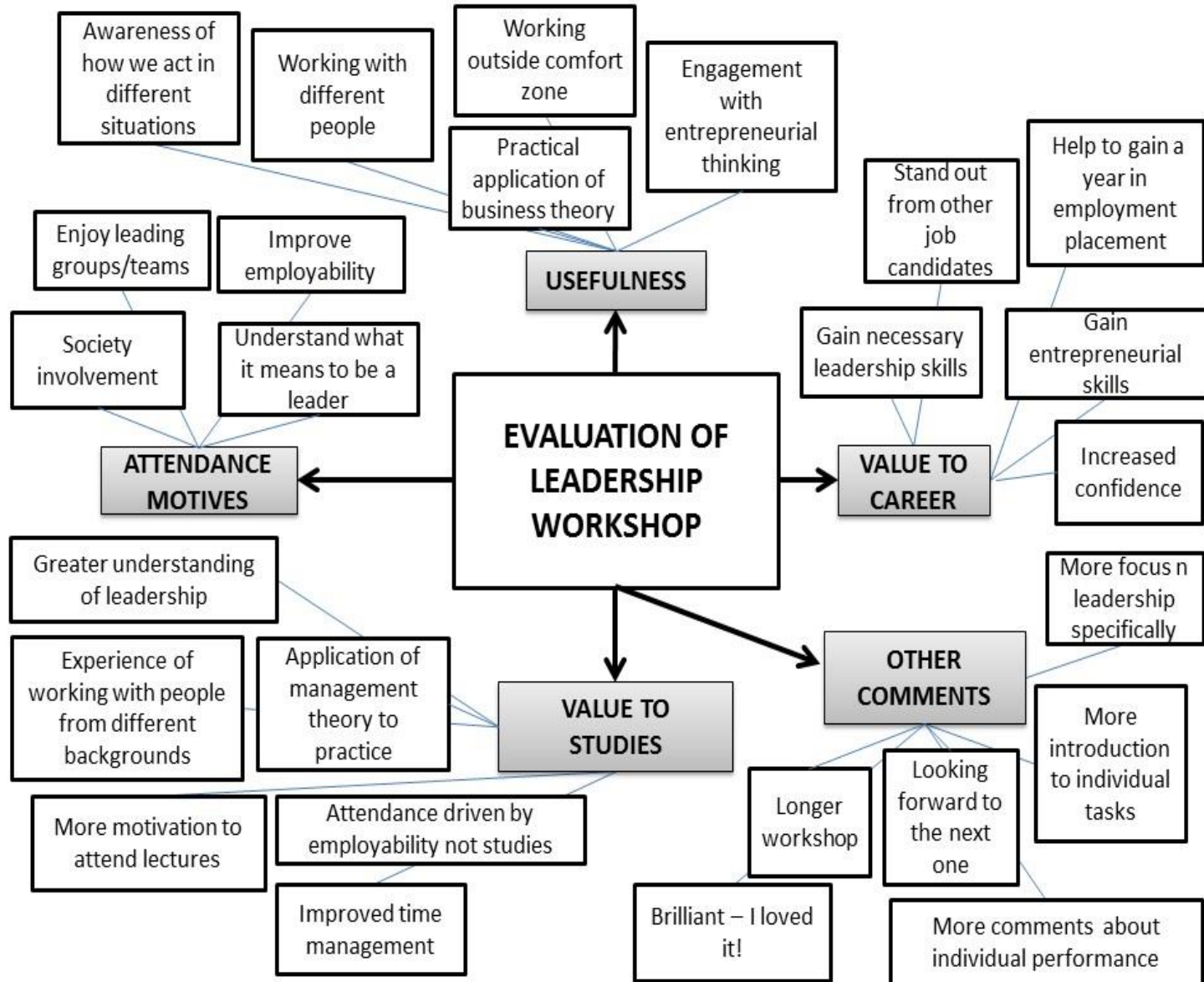
Evaluation



- What was the most important thing I learnt from this workshop?
- What did I enjoy ,most about this workshop?
- What other workshops would you like IBL to run?
- What else would you like us to include in this workshop?

1. Why did you decide to attend this event?
 2. What elements, if any, did you find useful about this workshop?
 3. In what ways, if any, was this workshop valuable to your studies?
 4. In what ways, if any, was this workshop valuable to your future career?
 5. Which of the following skills, if any, did you gain/develop though attending this workshop? *Leadership Skills, Confidence Building Skills, Numeracy Skills, Teamworking Skills, Presentation Skills, Other (please state)*
 6. Was the location suitable for this workshop? Yes/No (please provide further comments on this)
 7. Would you be happy to attend this course, or a similar course, again? Yes/No (please provide further comments on this)
- Any further comments

Findings



11 / 12 participants would attend workshop again

12 / 12 felt location was appropriate

Skills developed:
 Teamwork 12 / 12
 Leadership 10 / 12
 Presentation 10 / 10
 Confidence 9 / 10
 Numeracy 2 / 10

- How can we increase student involvement?
- How can we put leadership theory into practice – difficult to learn leadership from theory alone?

I found the limits (time, material etc.) very useful because it put me out of my comfort zone and therefore made it possible to learn.

I think it was more... a partial practice workshop and not too much directly learning new things like in a lecture, which I think is very important and should be done more in the different uni modules. So it was valuable as it helped to understand and practice how our knowledge from the studies can be applied in business leading/management circumstances.

The activities were useful in showing how we react in challenging situations. It was really useful to have feedback and an external assessment of our performance within a group. These types of workshops are the only times where we get this type of assessment and where we are able to reflect critically on our own actions in a team situation.

I really enjoyed it and am looking forward to a future event.

Conclusion

Revisions for the Leadership Workshop next year

- **TWO workshops – Teamwork and Leadership**
- **Increase in numeracy tasks**
- **Group and One-to-one feedback provided after every task**
- **Include session on ‘presentation style’**
- **3-4 day workshop (rather than 2-3 day)**

Akbari (2007) describes the reflective teacher as one who is continually examining and improving their approach to teaching. This process involves critical examination of teaching styles and methods, considering new approaches and the practical implementation of these through the cycle of appreciation, action and re-appreciation (Schon, 1983).

Thank you for listening
Questions?