Reflecting and evaluating

Overview

This activity supports students to reflect on and evaluate the effectiveness of their student leadership group and their involvement as participants.

Learning intentions

- Students reflect on and evaluate the effectiveness of the whole group.
- Students reflect on and evaluate their own progress and participation.

Resources

- Reflecting and evaluating handout

Activity 1: Evaluating a project

Instructions

Say:

'It is important that ongoing evaluation occurs to ensure that the plan is working. It's also important to collect data and evidence about how successful a project was For example, 'In Term 1, we organised a school disco, 85% of the school came, there were no problem behaviours and we surveyed 200 students who said they really enjoyed it.'

- As a group, choose a project from this year or last year and answer the following questions to evaluate it (you may need to ask additional questions to fit the project);
    - Did we achieve what we set out to do?
    - What did we do well?
    - What could we have done better?
    - What did we learn from what we did?
    - What evidence do we have that the project was successful?
    - Did we make any lasting changes?
    - If we were to do it again, what would we do next time?

Activity 2: Evaluating the group

Instructions

- Give everyone a copy of the handout to complete the first activity. As a group, discuss and add any other practices the group feels it has achieved. Fill in the other columns together.

Activity 3: Self-reflection

Instructions

- The handout contains some starter sentences for self-reflection. Allow students some quiet time to read through and complete their answers on the sheet or on a separate piece of paper.
- Invite each person to choose one sentence to share with the group. Remember to thank each student for sharing their reflections.

Debriefing questions

This activity was about evaluating a project, evaluating the work of the group and reflecting on our own participation in the group. Final discussion with the group could explore:

- Why evaluating and reflecting is important – how can we use this for future planning?
- What kind of skills do you think it builds?
- Why is it good to collect evidence of our work and achievements?
- How can you use evidence and evaluations?

Concluding comments

Evaluation can help us to identify areas for improvement. This is useful to help plan for and work towards achieving our goals efficiently.

Evaluations can also provide examples of success to guide, teach and inspire others.

It can sometimes be hard to evaluate something after the project has ended, especially if the project happened over several weeks or months. Making regular time and opportunities for self-reflection and collecting evidence of our work and achievement are also important. It's also a good way of learning about yourself, your strengths, things you want to improve on and future directions.

Activity 2: Evaluating the group

Effective practice	Where are we now?	What can we do to improve?
We organise a variety of wellbeing activities for students such as speakers or events.		
We are involved in school events such as Year 7 orientation or sports activities		
We are involved in the running of school assemblies		
We are accessible and known to the school community		
We work with school staff to achieve our planned projects		

Activity 3: Self reflection

My roles in the team are.....

I enjoyed.....

I had difficulties with.....

I learnt.....

I wish I had.....

A project I worked on was.....

Something I am proud of is.....

Supporting student leadership: Reflecting and Evaluating