

# Integrated Studies II

HCCS MSc

## Guidance Notes for Personal Critical Document

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*(Taken from an email sent by Richard Cox to a previous year's Integrated Studies II group.)*

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The document should focus on the group dynamic's aspects of the project, i.e. not so much on what contribution to the 'Alternative website' that you made in terms of graphics, programming, writing content etc. (though details of that should feature to some extent). Rather the focus should be on issues such as:

- How did you work on the project as an individual, as a member of a sub-group (e.g. content-writing-team), and as part of the group as a whole.
- How clearly were roles adopted/allocated by/to people in the group. How clearly delineated or fuzzy were they? Did they play to the strengths of group members?
- How the group organised itself at the beginning of the project.
- Whether roles of people changed during the project.
- What modes of communication did groups and sub-groups use most/least (oral communication between pairs and groups (face-to-face or by phone), email, texting, messages left in MSc lab, or by using internet chat mediums or smartgroups, etc.
- Were there any points of controversy within the group? Were they resolved or not? If so, how? What tensions or issues in the group arose and were they resolved? If so, how?
- What modes of communication matched or supported what kind of task?
- What barriers to communication were there? Were they resolved and, if so, how?
- What meetings occurred – were they face-to-face or electronic?
- Were notes/minutes kept, and to what degree of formality of management? How useful were these to the overall group process?
- Did a degree of management structure evolve or was it actively created? What form did it take? Was it a hierarchical or non-hierarchical form?
- Was 'management' perceived as a role in its own right within the group? Was it seen as equivalent to programming, graphics, etc.
- How did the group evolve mechanisms for identifying what needed to be done?
- How did the group plan and review its progress?
- Was the group intrinsically motivated, or jollied along (extrinsic motivation)? When and how/why did motivation levels fluctuate in the group?

In other words the document should contain reflections on group processes and your involvement/role(s) in the group, rather than having a specific focus on what you and the group produced.