

My name is Dr Penelope Laycock, and I am a Lecturer in Social Policy at the University of Glasgow.

I first became interested in using reflective learning logs as an assessment tool when I took over the convenership of an Honours-level course in which a reflective learning log formed part of the assessment. The feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive.

Students particularly appreciated the opportunity to incorporate greater creativity into their work, which contrasted with the more traditional policy reports and essays they were accustomed to completing. They valued the increased flexibility and autonomy afforded by the reflective learning logs, which enabled them to engage with the assessment in a more personal and meaningful way.

The learning logs also proved highly effective in helping students consolidate their learning. They encouraged students to reflect on the connections between different aspects of the course and to better understand the rationale behind the ways in which the curriculum was designed and delivered.

I believe that reflective practice is an invaluable skill for students to develop. It not only enhances their academic learning but also makes a significant contribution to their employability after graduation. Following the introduction of reflective learning logs, I discussed their use with the Employability Team at the University of Glasgow. They emphasised that reflective practice is regarded as a highly valuable capability in the workplace and one that employers increasingly expect graduates to possess.

In the current employment landscape, it is particularly important that students are able to recognise and articulate how the knowledge and skills they have developed at university can be transferred to professional settings. Reflective learning logs support this process by encouraging students to identify, evaluate, and communicate the skills they have acquired and consider how these can be applied in future employment.

Following their successful implementation at Honours level, reflective learning logs have also been adopted in several Master's programmes, where student feedback has likewise been very positive. Overall, I believe they are an extremely valuable assessment tool, enabling students to deepen their understanding of their learning while reinforcing the academic and transferable skills they have developed throughout their studies.