

Practicum Pedagogy: pluses and pitfalls of a portfolio process for social work field placements

University of Auckland Social Work Practice
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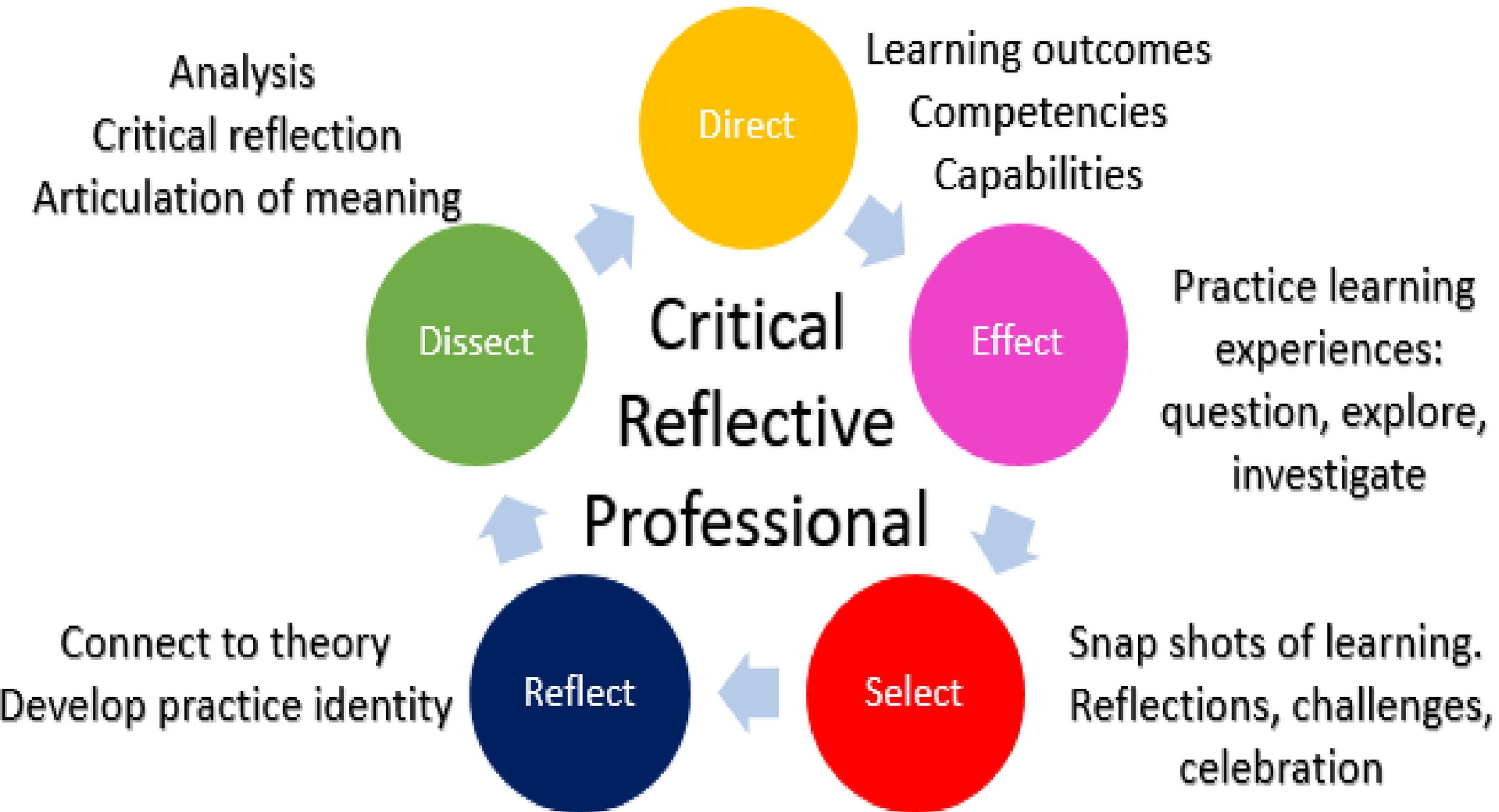
Aspirations/drivers for change

- Student and supervisor feedback
- Institutional expectations
- Pedagogical motivation



Pluses: Choosing the e-portfolio

1. Demonstrates how course work relates to the real world
2. Enables students to own their personal/ professional development journey
3. It is more flexible than exams – pass/fail not graded
4. E-portfolios are student centred and more collaborative in nature



E-portfolio process

My Induction

My Signed Learning
Contract

My Mid Placement
Reflection

My Supervisor's
Assessment of My
Practice #1 & #2

My Power Point
Presentation

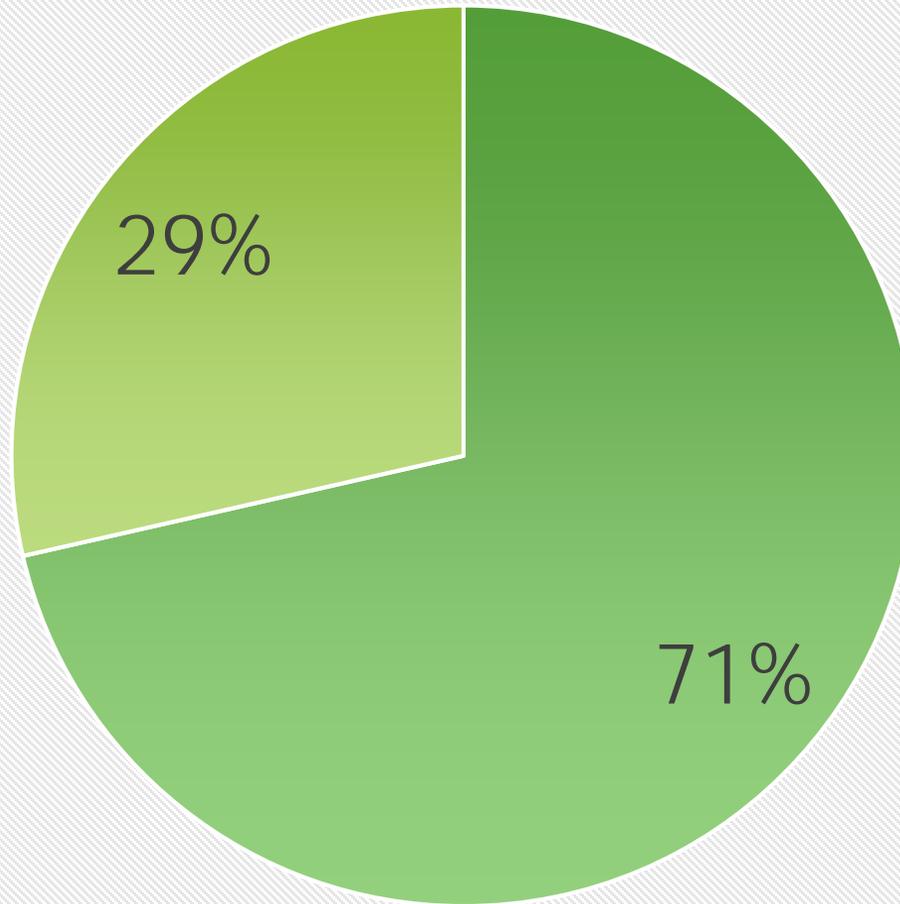
My Supervisor's
Final Report

My Completed
Timeline and Dates
of Supervision

My Placement
Learning Summary

Student's perspective

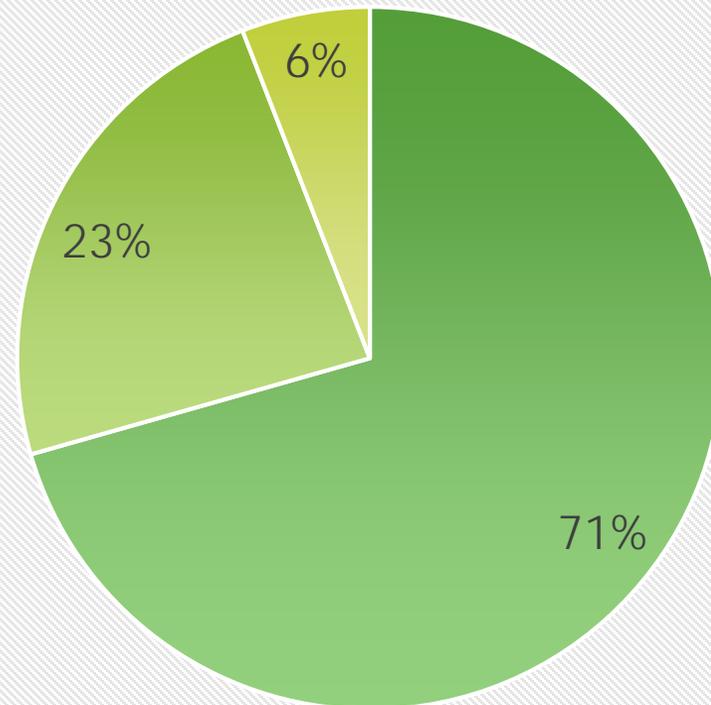
How well do you think the Portfolio process was understood by your supervisor/field educator?



Supervisor's perspective

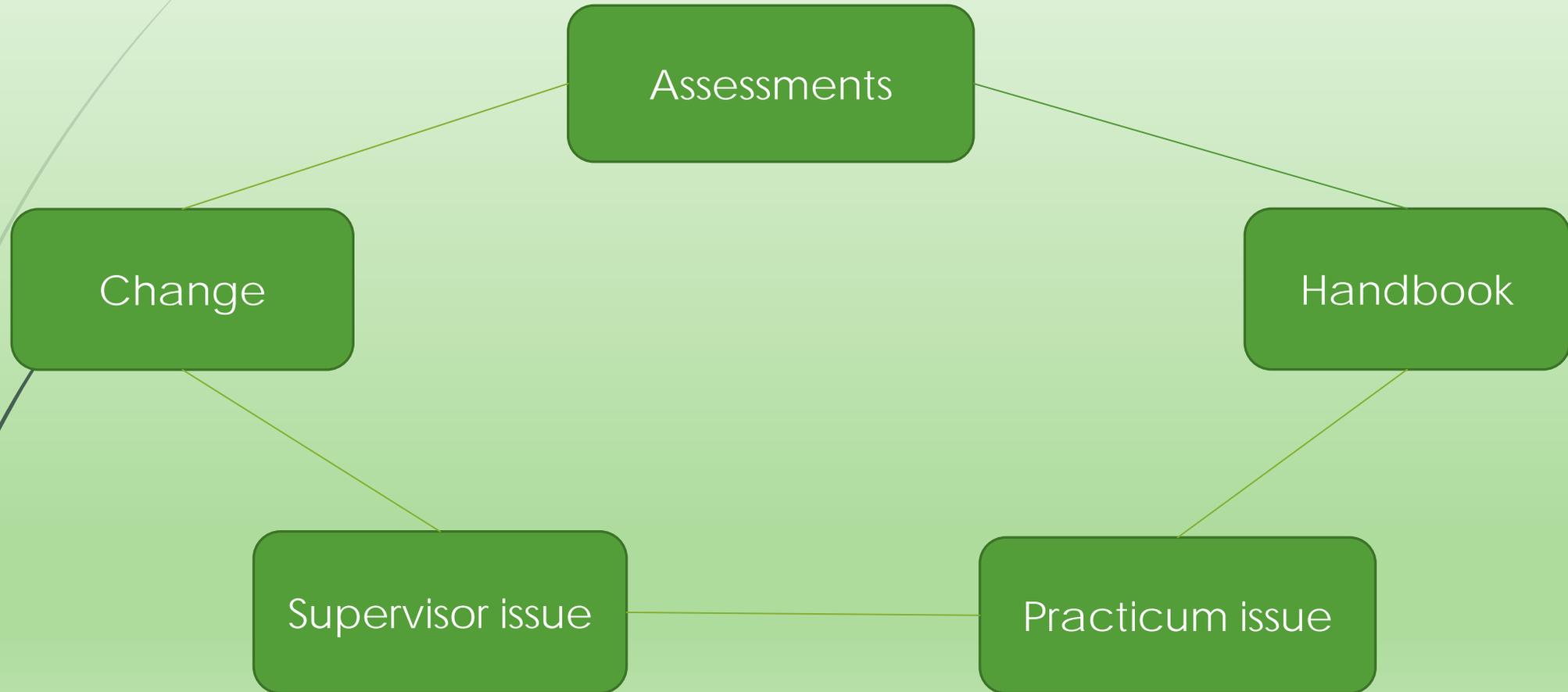
How well do you think the Portfolio process was understood by your student?

Supervisor's Responses



- Positive
- Mixed
- Negative

Pitfalls: Possible improvements



Our goal and intended outcomes

- ❑ To develop a practicum assessment process that is clear, collaborative and easily applied.
- ❑ Resulting in social work students who are confident in their social work identity and critically reflexive practice and capable in articulating their knowledge.

How will we incorporate feedback?

Pre-practicum preparation:

- ❑ Consistency, clarity and communication.

Handbook refinement:

- ❑ Ongoing systematic review of the handbooks
- ❑ Consultation with Field Educators for assessment adjustment and development



Next Steps:

By delving deeper in qualitative interviews we will:

- Inquire about the effectiveness of the portfolio in terms of reducing time, workload and stress.
- Further explore collaborative assessment and solicit further input from Field Educators and students.
- Explore levels of confidence to practice for both the student and the Field Educator/Supervisor.

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