

Reflection

From this experiment, I have earned a lot of skills and was able to improve myself as a person. I did the literature review part of the proposal which I considered it successful. During the time I wrote the literature review, I had to read various of journals which I felt that I have earned the skills and was able to understand them faster than in the past. In addition, I helped with the methodology part which involves critical thinking in order to find the best method to conduct the experiment. I thought of how to make it fair for both species and how the experiment should be done in order for it to be success. Furthermore, I was the one to take all of the videos and edit the whole video. I felt that by editing it I have learned how to add animations, edit the text, and a lot more. I had to push myself to do things with my best ability and potential since how well I edit the video and write the proposal affect others too. I think by doing the project as a group, I have developed communication skills and learn to adapt with others. I had to learn to accept what others think and whenever we had different thoughts, I worked out to find the best solution for our group. Despite all of the things I learned, there were things that I could have done better. I think I did not manage my time wisely because the proposal was done five minutes before the submitting time which did not allow us to proof read our proposal before submitting it to Miss Charlie. We also had some communication flaws. Among my members, they were not on the same page. They had understood how we were going to conduct the project differently. By this, I learned to clarify things more and double check if my members were able to understand what I was trying to state.

From conducting this experiment on guinea pigs and hamsters, I have earned lots of experiences and have been able to observe the response of these animals and relate it to the information that was taught in animal behavior class. First of all, I am one of the person who has fear on these types of animals. So, from working with them for some period of time, I am able to overcome those fears and bond to it more. I think that by actually seeing these animals on experiment and working with them, I am able to learn how classical and operant learning behavior really works on real life organisms and how other scientists train these animals. I think my group was successful because my team members, which adopted the animals, did a very good job at bonding with the animals. This helped them get used to human and were not very scared when we were conducting the experiment. I think one of the essential part of working with animals are maintaining its good mental health because if it feels fear, it will become aggressive and the experiment would fail. I also felt that we did a great job in observing the animals. When we starved it bit in order for them to run the maze well, it ended up the opposite way. The animals were too hungry and did poorly on the maze. By this, we immediately fed the animals and did not starved it again. The results were that it enhanced their performance. My group cared for the animals and took the health of the animals as the first concern which was why our animals listened to us and performed well in the maze experiment compared to other groups animals. Although we were successful, there were some flaws that we made. I felt that my group should have worked faster because there were several times where we filmed the video and it went over our class time. Also, we had bad tracking system. Some of the data were lost and had to be redone again by watching the video which I was very disappointed by that.

The result of the whole experiment was that guinea pigs were smarter and faster than the hamsters. In the proposal, we stated that we were going to find the speed of guinea pigs and hamsters by letting it run in straight lines. This is in order for us to convert the time that it ran in the maze to the actual speed it runs to be fair for both of the different species which would enable us to compare them. However, it failed. Both of the animals did not run in a straight line and linger around longer than it supposed to. Despite this, we were successful because both of our guinea pig and hamster were able to complete the maze in a short period of time with no errors at all. On the other hand, I felt that my group did not have a good scale of how to count the errors of the animals which did not make the result very accurate. Also, the first few times that we let the animals run the maze, it was quite confused and did not understand what it is supposed to do. Due to the short amount of time we had, we had to include it as part of the experiment even though I felt that it should be neglected. Moreover, we actually had planned to make the maze using velcro in order for us to change the maze around and adjust the maze. It didn't work as planned because there was not enough time to conduct more experiments and train them to run a different maze. Also, the velcro was not strong enough to hold the big maze where we had to change the material and use a glue gun instead. Based on the prediction made, I had predicted that the hamster would run faster than guinea pigs because it is smaller and able to run faster than the guinea pigs. According to many researches, it has also stated that hamsters are smarter than guinea pigs which contradicts to our result. In the first part of the experiment, the hamster was able to run faster than the guinea pig. Throughout the experiment, after the guinea pig understands what it is supposed to do, it runs the maze faster. From the data above, it could be predicted that in the first stage of learning, hamsters are able to learn faster, but towards the end the guinea pig would run faster. Even though the experiment conducted here is quite accurate, there are some flaws that we would have to keep and improve in the next coming time. If there were to conduct this experiment again, then they should find researches about how to compare the speed of both species and might use a machine to detect the errors made by the animals so that it could be accurate and do not have human errors. I think by doing this research, it helps contribute a model of how to compare different species of animals and how to observe the learning process of them. Furthermore, it helps future researchers recognize which types of animals they should use for their labs and how to train their animals. It could be concluded that various types of animals learn at different rate and respond differently towards a stimuli. Therefore, if an experiment were to be conducted on a particular animal, scientists would have to find a specific type of animal that matches with the characteristics that they need.

How does this relate to ESLOs?

1) STRATEGIC LEARNERS

I acknowledge the essential part of this project which is to observe the behaviors of guinea pig and hamster. It is crucial to take care of these subjects as best as possible because they are living organisms and they do have feelings just like us. I think that there were parts of experiment that could be improved such as time management, how we calculated the errors, finding the speed of the subjects, and a lot more. In this particular project, we use our laptops to conduct researches, google documents to help one another edit the projects, and line to communicate with each other.

2) INNOVATIVE THINKERS

We had built a maze which is different from others and were able to adapt various types of experiment that others had done to create an unique and original project. We apply the knowledge that we had studied in our class and observe our subjects in order to learn more about them. We were able to solve circumstances that came up and were able to evaluate how well the subjects ran the maze, comparing and contrasting them. We were creative with how we ran the experiment and did not conduct experiments that were similar to others. During this whole experiment, we had use a camera to film the whole process and were able to edit the video using iMovie, and published it on YouTube.

3) ARTICULATE COMMUNICATORS

We communicate with one another by listening to other ideas and perspective. We had written a proposal, learning record form, work log, data analysis, and a reflection for this project. We talked to one another to find the procedures and solutions for this project. We published this video in order for others to be able to view it and learn from the mistakes that we have made. Also, they are able to improve our experiment if they wanted to conduct their own in the future.

4) MORALLY INTELLIGENT PERSONS

We were fair to our guinea pig and hamster. There were no bias when we conducted the experiment. Both of the subjects have a fair run on the maze. Despite this, we were very hardworking on this project. We skipped some meals in order to conduct the experiment on them. We had also fed them daily and cared for them.

5) ALTRUISTIC GLOBAL CITIZENS

We respect all of our members' ideas and talk with one another when some of us do not feel the same way about some of the things we were going to do.

6) LEADERS FOR THE FUTURE

We work together as a team in order to complete this successful experiment. We had been through various of discussion and combine all of our thoughts and ideas to work out this experiment. We always gave each other useful feedbacks and helped each other when there are issues that appear while doing this project.