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EDTECH 505, Spring 2015
Week 7 Assignment

- d. Discuss chapter 5 in the course text and chapters 2 & 6 at the Internet site in c. above. What was the same with the two readings? Different? New knowledge? Insight into evaluations? (Avoid any vague meanderings in your response. Discuss (e.g., compare/contrast) the book and Internet reading in specific terms.) Minimum 250 words.*

I actually found Chapters 2 and 6 of the handbook to be a nice compliment to Chapter 5 of the text. While the text does a good job with laying a generic foundation for creating an evaluation, it lacks the specificity needed to give the learner a kick in the right direction. I came away from the text knowing the models I wanted to utilize and a general format outline, but the whole picture did not become apparent until reading Chapters 2 and 6. Simply expressed, they put the meat on the bones provided by the text.

Handbook is an appropriate title for the online material. To me it seemed more of a user's guide for evaluation. By defining a case study in Chapter 2, the author lays the groundwork for subsequent chapters. The Handbook is a reference. The text takes a much more holistic approach, providing a richer experience. While they both discussed the physical layout of an evaluation and provided a framework, as a self-proclaimed Digital Native, I prefer the handbook style of writing when learning "how" to do something. It is, for me, more like a book of translated phrases in a foreign language. If I am only ever going to spend 2 weeks in Germany in my lifetime, I would rather know how to ask for a beer and the bathrooms than spend the time learning to speak German.

This is a similar case. I have enjoyed learning about evaluation in both the public and private sector, but I do not believe I will ever attempt to earn a living at it. However, within the parameters of my current position, I am called upon frequently to conduct evaluations of programs and events. It is the nature of my business. Chances are very good that I will never crack the textbook again after completing the class, but a pdf file of the handbook is already on my desktop at work.

- e. *Use your new understanding about evaluations to address this question: Which evaluation model from chapter 5 would you choose for your own Evaluation Report-Course Project? Explain your choice. Minimum 250 words.*

The issues that Millstone Station has with troubleshooting did not occur overnight. Our ability to maintain our own equipment has been degrading over time. In the past, however, the systems that this lack of ability affected were relatively unimportant. Thus rework issues were not seen as a long term problem. After all, if one chemical addition pump out of three has to be reworked because troubleshooting did not discover the problem the first time around, it really isn't a big deal because we have two spares installed and chemical additions can proceed as planned, but when the single most important piece of equipment on the station is reworked time and again, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission takes notice.

I will be using a combination Decision Making Model and Systems Analysis for my evaluation. I realize that there is a performance gap which we need to address immediately which is where the Systems Analysis model comes into play. We need to right the ship immediately in order to maintain our license. Having said this, in my mind, we also need to address our long term issues. As previously mentioned, in the next five years, Engineering will experience an incredible turnover in personnel. Nearly 20% of the workforce will be retiring and being replaced by new hires. Clearly Station Troubleshooting is not merely a short term problem. Obviously, we need to address the short term effects, but if we were, for a snapshot in time, brilliant at solving every one of our problems with the current plant population, in five years, one fifth of that population will have retired. This is where the Decision Making model comes into play. Stufflebeam's model is geared to addressing long range effects, and while things at the station may be better, there is much work to be done.

Given the 15 week nature of the course, the initial report will be heavily weighted in the Systems Analysis direction, and the data which I have gathered thus far seems to indicate that we have made the turn and that the training that was given was effective. Frankly, I'm not surprised. This is not because I think I am the World's Greatest Engineering Instructor, but it is down to the fact that Millstone actually has a highly intelligent workforce, who, when focused, can perform amongst the best and the brightest in the industry. So while this course ends in May, my evaluation will not. As someone who lives within 2 miles of the plant, this issue is too important to let slip through the cracks. I plan on using these techniques to monitor the long range progress of the new Engineering Department so that we can avoid making the same mistakes and can keep our equipment running efficiently.