Reflection and Evaluation

Reflection and evaluation at the end of a project is really important, for both you and for the product’s development. It enables you to check that the product is successful and that it answers the brief. It also helps you understand what you have learned throughout the process, which can then be applied in the next piece you do

There are several stages to evaluation and reflection, here are just some. There are more detailed handouts in the Design Resources section on the website:

a) Evaluation throughout the Project

You need to evaluate at the end of each major section throughout the project, highlighting what you have learned and achieved, and how your work relates to the brief

b) Construction

Make a note of what problems you encountered during construction or changes you made and then comment upon the reasons for these problems and changes. Also, comment on whether you used the right and appropriate materials and techniques?

c) Testing

Compare your finished product to your SPECIFICATION, by going through the specification point by point. Comment upon whether the product satisfies all the requirements of the initial brief. i.e. Does it do the job for which it was intended? If not, WHY? Also consider how it would be tested if it was a real product i.e. surveys or a testing sample

d) Modifications

Use sketches and notes to show how your design could be developed and improved. Remember, your design is a prototype and unless it is perfect (highly unlikely) there will be scope for development. Think about what would need to be done if it was to go into mass production.

Here is some further headings to start with:

1. Does it Answer the Brief?
2. Does it answer the specification points?
3. What does the client think?
4. How could it be tested?
5. How could it be developed?

Always keep your answers clear and don’t assume the person reading it understands the project as well as you, so keep the comments obvious and explain what you mean.

Remember, always keep this a positive in this section and celebrate the success and achievements you have.