

A WAY OF BEING WHO WE ARE IS HOW WE COACH

The practicum guidelines are the minimum requirement for qualification.

Within two weeks of finishing the course I'd like you to create a personalised learning plan for the practicum which will form the basis of your learning journey into 'being' a Thinking Environment Coach.

What does becoming a Thinking Environment Coach mean to you and how will the components inform your practicum?

How can you 'be' each of the components as you 'do' the practicum?

1. PRACTICE COACHING SESSIONS

Practice-coach two people 4-6 sessions each. After each session, write/record a summary of the session and notes of your learning, as well as questions the session raised for you.

The purpose of this is for you to work with someone who knows nothing about the Thinking Environment and may never have experienced truly independent thinking and give them an experience of how transformational this can be.

We've found it takes both of you about three sessions to settle in to a Thinking Environment and then as you both move through the sessions you get more ease as you experience the difference between 'doing' and 'being'.

Each session allows you to develop your ability to contract and set boundaries within the coaching relationship.

The sessions will also provide you with a deeper understanding of all of the Findings of this work so when you come to complete your written work you'll have not only a theoretical understanding but one that is grounded in experience.

2. EXPLICATING THE PAUSES

Demonstrate your competence in thinking through the considerations' that lead to the best choice of next question for the Thinker.

The explicating the pauses essay forms the theoretical part of the practicum so draws on all of your practice sessions, knowledge and reading about coaching in a Thinking Environment.

It is a bringing together of everything we currently know about the Thinking Environment and is a time and space for you to reflect on your understanding of this.

The purpose is for you to experience, analyse and deeply explore the Findings of the Thinking Environment so you can explain them clearly, revealing any gaps or challenges in understanding which we can explore together so you're able to confidently and easefully start to coach in a Thinking Environment.

I expect you to demonstrate your understanding of each of the findings detailed in Companion: the detail.

There is a video on Podia going through each of the findings and a checklist of things you need to include.

3. CHARACTERISING THE THINKING SESSION AS COACHING

Communicate your responses to these two questions:

1. In what ways do you think the Thinking Session is a genuine and effective coaching framework?

2. What do you think are the features of the Thinking Session that are not usually found in other coaching approaches that you will need to explain to your clients? How would you explain each of them?

The purpose of this is for you to reflect on the Thinking Environment as an approach to coaching. How might you explain it to people that know nothing about it? What makes it different/similar to other coaching? How do you characterise it as coaching?

4. TWICE-WEEKLY THINKING SESSIONS

During the period of your learning and qualifying, continue to refine and advance your expertise by having two Thinking Sessions per week. You need to keep a record/log of the number of sessions.

These sessions provide you with the experience of thinking deeply for yourself. Only when we develop our ability to become independent thinkers are we able to authentically offer this to others. The sessions also allow you the best opportunity of discovering for yourself the many findings.

The sessions will also give you examples for your work on explicating the pauses.

You will want to explore different lengths of sessions so experimenting with short sessions and then taking extended times of 45-90 minutes so you can develop your ability to pay attention over extended periods and to tackle topics which are more likely to require the explicit building of assumptions.

5. READ & REFLECT ON THE BOOK - THE PROMISE THAT CHANGE EVERYTHING - NANCY KLINE

This book, written in 2020 is Nancy Kline's and the faculty's latest thinking on the Thinking Environment and as practitioners of this work it's important we are aware of the latest developments. This work continues to evolve and there have been many changes since Time to Think was written over 20 years ago.

What most resonated with you? What were your freshest learnings? What challenged you? What do you think now?

LOGISTICS:

You have up to 5 hours of my time during the practicum which includes reading and responding to your written work.

We will have a 90 minute call where I will be your thinker and we practice the explicit building of incisive questions together.

I need to receive your written work, reflections and any questions a minimum of one week before our calls.