

Stage 2 Research Project A – 2014

External Assessment Cover Sheet

Assessment Type 3: Review

SACE Registration Number:

Research Question "How can I undertake a
simple taxidermy project?"

word count _____
(for written only)

Summary : 159

Review : 1502

This evaluation is assessed using the following specific features:

Synthesis	Review
S3	R1
	R2
	R3

Summary

The question that I decided to research was "How can I undertake a simple taxidermy project?" The reason why I picked this topic is because I was interested in learning the skills required to conduct taxidermy as my family has always gone hunting and used these animals for taxidermy projects. I wanted to know the process of taxidermy. I researched how to go about the stuffing of an animal, equipment to use in taxidermy along with the best ways to pose the animal. I carried out my own action research by actually taxidermying a duck. I researched by interviewing some taxidermists, visiting the museum to see the stuffed animals and trial and error with my own project. My key findings were presented in a report that also substantiated my final taxidermy project. The best animal to start taxidermying is a rat because it has tougher skin. The equipment that you need to get started is scalpel, scalpel blade, water and pliers. The best way to treat the animal chemically is to use shampoo and warm water, fat degreaser and warm water and dish washing liquid with warm water. The process to make the bodies is that you put expanding foam in the mould and it will make your shape of your body. The positions are optional depending what the customers want.

Word count: 159

Review

Throughout the course of my research project, I have gained interesting knowledge about taxidermy that is new to me. Some of this knowledge includes different ways that taxidermy can be performed. Emailing different professional taxidermists provided me with some key information that I found useful, when undertaking my own taxidermy project. Some of the key knowledge that I gained was companies and organisations was what a good animal to taxidermy has and where to purchase material from.

Doing the research project had helped engage a few different skills. One of the skills that develop was communication. I used communication when emailing different taxidermists around the world. I had conducted some face to face interviews. By doing these interviews and emails I managed to maintain effective contact with professional taxidermists to get some advice and ideas on how I could improve my different taxidermy skills. When I was doing my research project I had to do a practical. I had to deconstruct and construct my waterfowl project. I had to know what the animal looks like in the wild and try to construct the bird so it looked life like. I also had to present the Waterfowl in an appropriate setting and habitat of where the bird lives to show respect to the animal. I also watched a DVD and visited a museum to give me some more ideas on how I can make some of my animals look more lifelike. I was able to develop all of these specific with the help of my research.

Kerosene is a chemical used to clean and scrub the animal. I found by using kerosene in the chemical it was bad because it is unhealthy for my lungs and health. It can also de-hydrate the animal which can also affect their skin and the final outcome of the product. The various professional taxidermists I consulted with gave me new ideas and healthier ways to put the duck in a safer chemical that was better for my health, such as bi-carb soda. I have also found out that when you take the bird out of the chemical I normally leave it in the sun for the feathers to dry. After emailing some different taxidermist they gave me some different ideas how I could make the feathers fluffy.

R1 Outline of knowledge and its application. Learning acquired through the research is applied in the action research.

S3 Summary is mostly clear and coherent. The purpose of the research, the processes undertaken and key findings are outlined.

R1 Considered review of some of the knowledge gained is outlined. It is identified as key information.

R1 Considered review of skills required to complete outcome. How each skill was gained is indicated. The value of research project in developing skills is recognised.

R1 Assessment of the value of two research methods indicates the usefulness of processes. Emailing experts and fieldwork were seen as important. A connection is made between the knowledge gained and its application to the research outcome and to future endeavours.

The method of research that I found to be most useful was emailing professional taxidermists. Though this process I gained new but useful information that could help me in the future if I take this on as hobby. By gaining this type of information it also gave me new ideas. These new ideas have interested me to try to taxidermy another animal that is slightly more difficult. Field work has helped me to see different finished products, tools and resources used to create and display the animals and the types of habitats the taxidermist has used to exhibit the animal.

R2 Challenge identified in terms of completion of the work rather than in the actual research.

The challenges that I had faced throughout this research project is that getting the Outcome and the folio all done on time. At the beginning I thought that there was no rush to complete both tasks. I was taking my time and I wasn't concentrating on the task. When I finished collating my folio I was so happy because I was struggling. If I had to do the folio again I would be more prepared and get it done earlier so I can get some drafts handed up.

S3 Topic sentences clearly identify purpose of paragraphs, supporting coherent discussions.

R2 The contact with experts recognised as an important source of information.

The opportunities that became apparent to me during my research were when I emailed professional taxidermist and I had received back important information that could help me out with my taxidermying. The different information that I received helped me with some of the practicals like the chemicals which is now better for my health as well as making the birds look more life.

R2 Opportunity of accessing reliable sources is linked to "good key findings" for outcome.

If I had to repeat the same project again I would change the animal that I choose to taxidermy. Waterfowl mount I would change it to doing either and shoulder mount or a life size mount. The type of animal will depend on the type of season it will be. I would like to do a deer or a fox but you want the animal to look good, so it would be best to get the animal around mid-winter or the end of winter. The reason I would do this is because it would be a challenge and it would be interest.

R3 Considered reflection on how the outcome could be done differently. Explanation of why.

R3 Assessment of the outcome in terms of possible reaction of others.

By ensuring that my outcome was reliable and valid I had done some hard work by emailing professional taxidermist around the world to get key information. I had also resourced the information thought out my outcome. By have access to reliable sources I was able to do some field work at the museum and art gallery, and this was good key findings to help me out in my outcome.

Reading though my Outcome I could understand where each focus question was answered. This is apparent by including different photos and website that I use to research this key information. If person wanted to undertake a simple taxidermy project they could read my outcome and understand what it was saying clearly. For the people who understand taxidermy and want to know about equipment or process of they could also read though this and get a fair idea what they use.

R3 The outcome is assessed against its usefulness to others who are taxidermists. Valid comments about its value are made.

In terms of either I had to take in consideration the feel and thought of other people who find taxidermy offensive. So I spoke to the teacher about it and develop a suitable question which was "how to undertake a simple taxidermy project". So I had done this for my research project and I had kept all my photos secret and not shown anyone just in case they faint.

My outcome had three main strengths. This first strength was communication. This was used when I had emailed and getting in contact with professional taxidermist around the world. They had given me really good information that I could use in my research project as well as in my practical work. A strength of mine would be time management. This skill was used wisely by having my tools and equipment prepared for when I was ready to begin taxidermy to the waterfowl animals. The third skill that I had used was problem solving. This was used effectively by when I was using kerosene but I did some further research for a healthier reason for myself and the bird.

R3 The three strengths are identified in terms of their application to the the outcome, either in information gained or the completion of the task.

R2 Further challenges are outlined. One strategy to overcome the issue is given.

I had three main challenges. The first weakness that I had was getting information back from professional taxidermist around the world. I had overcome this by emailing them over and over again until they would reply. The second challenge that I had was when I had ordered some equipment from an art shop and it took a while to come in and I was getting nervous that I wouldn't come in on time. Another weakness that I had was some challenges. The challenge that I had was when I positioning the bird in the right position that I wanted it to stand. Another challenge was making sure the feathers were all fluffy as well as all the feathers were all in the right pattern.

To conclude, I have found that making the waterfowl taxidermy was the best way to learn about the different skills of taxidermy. Through the research project I was able to learn and implement different and new research techniques. Through using these techniques I found they also helped me to develop my personal skills such as communication and problem solving.

R3 Reflection on the success of the outcome is measured against what has been learned, implemented and development against personal skills.

Word count: 1502

Additional Comments

- R1** A considered review of knowledge and skills developed in response to the research question is evident. It is clear what was undertaken in the research and what the findings and outcome were. Knowledge and skills are articulated in terms of how the outcome was reached.
- R2** There is evidence of some discussion of decisions made in response to challenges and/or opportunities. Challenges and opportunities and processes undertaken are articulated but not always explored in depth.
- R3** Reflection on the quality of the research outcome can be seen in the discussion of the actual taxidermy undertaken, the usefulness of the information gathered and the suggestion of the follow up project.
- S3** Generally ideas are clear. Key findings are clearly identified and discussed.
- B-**

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DVD

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Emails

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, 21 February 2014, taxidermy email interview

Face to Face interview

24 February, Face to face interview.

Performance Standards for Research Project A

	<i>Planning</i>	<i>Development</i>	<i>Synthesis</i>	<i>Review</i>
	Assessment Type 1: Folio		Assessment Type 2: Research Outcome	
			Assessment Type 3: Review	
A	<p>P1 Thorough consideration and refinement of a research question.</p> <p>P2 Thorough planning of research processes that are highly appropriate to the research question.</p>	<p>D1 Thorough and highly resourceful development of the research.</p> <p>D2 In-depth analysis of information and exploration of ideas to develop the research.</p> <p>D3 Highly effective development of knowledge and skills specific to the research question.</p> <p>D4 Thorough and informed understanding and development of one or more capabilities</p>	<p>S1 Insightful synthesis of knowledge, skills, and ideas to produce a resolution to the research question.</p> <p>S2 Insightful and thorough substantiation of key findings relevant to the research outcome.</p> <p>S3 Clear and coherent expression of ideas.</p>	<p>R1 Insightful review of knowledge and skills developed in response to the research question.</p> <p>R2 In-depth discussion of decisions made in response to challenges and/or opportunities.</p> <p>R3 Insightful reflection on the quality of the research outcome.</p>
B	<p>P1 Consideration and some refinement of a research question.</p> <p>P2 Considered planning of research processes that are appropriate to the research question.</p>	<p>D1 Considered and mostly resourceful development of the research.</p> <p>D2 Some complexity in analysis of information and exploration of ideas to develop the research.</p> <p>D3 Effective development of knowledge and skills specific to the research question.</p> <p>D4 Informed understanding and development of one or more capabilities.</p>	<p>S1 Considered synthesis of knowledge, skills, and ideas to produce a resolution to the research question.</p> <p>S2 Substantiation of most key findings relevant to the research outcome.</p> <p>S3 Mostly clear and coherent expression of ideas.</p>	<p>R1 Considered review of knowledge and skills developed in response to the research question.</p> <p>R2 Some depth in discussion of decisions made in response to challenges and/or opportunities.</p> <p>R3 Considered reflection on the quality of the research outcome.</p>
C	<p>P1 Some consideration of a research question, but little evidence of refinement.</p> <p>P2 Satisfactory planning of research processes that are appropriate to the research question.</p>	<p>D1 Satisfactory development of the research.</p> <p>D2 Satisfactory analysis of information and exploration of ideas to develop the research.</p> <p>D3 Satisfactory development of knowledge and skills specific to the research question.</p> <p>D4 Satisfactory understanding and development of one or more capabilities.</p>	<p>S1 Satisfactory synthesis of knowledge, skills, and ideas to produce a resolution to the research question.</p> <p>S2 Substantiation of some key findings relevant to the research outcome.</p> <p>S3 Generally clear expression of ideas.</p>	<p>R1 Satisfactory review of knowledge and skills developed in response to the research question.</p> <p>R2 Satisfactory discussion of decisions made in response to challenges and/or opportunities.</p> <p>R3 Satisfactory reflection on the quality of the research outcome.</p>
D	<p>P1 Basic consideration and identification of a broad research question.</p> <p>P2 Partial planning of research processes that may be appropriate to the research question.</p>	<p>D1 Development of some aspects of the research.</p> <p>D2 Collection rather than analysis of information, with some superficial description of an idea to develop the research.</p> <p>D3 Superficial development of some knowledge and skills specific to the research question.</p> <p>D4 Basic understanding and development of one or more capabilities.</p>	<p>S1 Basic use of information and ideas to produce a resolution to the research question.</p> <p>S2 Basic explanation of ideas related to the research outcome.</p> <p>S3 Basic expression of ideas.</p>	<p>R1 Superficial description of some knowledge and skills developed in response to the research question.</p> <p>R2 Basic description of decisions made in response to challenges and/or opportunities</p> <p>R3 Superficial reflection on the quality of the research outcome.</p>
E	<p>P1 Attempted consideration and identification of an area for research.</p> <p>P2 Attempted planning of an aspect of the research process.</p>	<p>D1 Attempted development of an aspect of the research.</p> <p>D2 Attempted collection of basic information, with some partial description of an idea.</p> <p>D3 Attempted development of one or more skills that may be related to the research question.</p> <p>D4 Attempted understanding and development of one or more capabilities.</p>	<p>S1 Attempted use of an idea to produce a resolution to the research question.</p> <p>S2 Limited explanation of an idea or an aspect of the research outcome.</p> <p>S3 Attempted expression of ideas.</p>	<p>R1 Attempted description of some knowledge or a skill developed in response to the research question.</p> <p>R2 Attempted description of decisions made in response to a challenge and/or opportunity.</p> <p>R3 Attempted reflection on the quality of the research outcome.</p>