



After 654





Before 654

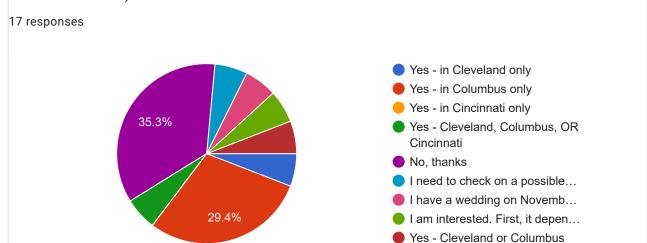




Before 654: I am offering an optional Face-to-Face Meditation Day Field Trip on session on Saturday, November 5, 2022, from 9:30-3:30 in Columbus, Cincinnati, or Cleveland. We visit a park/cemetery, have lunch together, and do a group activity at the local art museum. Are you interested in attending?

Сору

(This is just to get a general idea of interest, you will officially RSVP later in the semester.)





Before 654: What areas from the above statements do you feel are most critical to you to learn in this course as they pertain to: 1) your students 2) your teaching 3) your personal creative work?

17 responses

- 1. I know and can apply characteristics associated with creativity to a creative individual.
- 2. I know how to create a classroom environment that supports motivation and creativity.
- 3. I know the areas in which I am creative and am comfortable exploring my own creativity and creative process.

I need to learn about creative assessments and incorporating use of my student's creative abilities in my lessons.

Creating a classroom environment that supports creativity and motivation.

I can articulate a rationale for including creativity in my teaching, especially as it pertains to gifted students

I know how to create a classroom environment that supports motivation and creativity.

Theories of creativity, divergent strategies, and creativity assessment instruments

1) I feel the most critical to learn for my students is to apply creative problem solving in my content area. Critical thinking and thinking outside the box are areas I am always trying to approve upon. My goal is for my students to not think and act like compliant robots and question the world. 2) I feel the most critical for my teaching to learn is theories and models of gifted learning and creativity. Learning best practices and the research behind the practices is a goal of mine. I feel as if I can explain and justify my educational decisions to parents, administration and students knowing theories and models used by the great leaders in gifted and talented education. 3) I feel the most critical to learn for my own creative work is exploring my creative side. As I have morphed into an adult I have seen my creative side dim while my mom, wife, and professional side has illuminated. I need to explore me again and the things I love to do to be creative.

Applying divergent thinking strategies in the classroom.

I think the most critical statement is 13. Being able to use and help my students use the creative process would help my students explore more ideas not only in my class but else where. This will help structure my units as well.

The areas from the above statements that I feel are most critical for me to learn in this course as they pertain to my students, my teaching, and my personal creative work are statements 2, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, and 13. In regards to my students and my teaching, I feel that being able to articulate a rationale for including creativity in my teaching, especially as it pertains to gifted students is extremely important. If I can't explain the importance of creativity in my teachings,



how will I justify this to students and parents? Next, I feel that I should be able to apply characteristics associated with creativity to a creative individual and be able to apply divergent thinking strategies in the classroom. Also, I feel that it is important to be able to apply creative problem solving in my content area and know how to create a classroom environment that supports motivation and creativity. Lastly, I feel that it will be valuable to know of two or more creativity assessment instruments, and be able to articulate a rationale for and challenges associated with creativity assessment. In regards to my personal creative work, I feel that it is beneficial to be able to apply core attitudes and other aspects of the creative process to my personal life and to the creative process and performances of others.

I think understanding the creative process and divergent thinking strategies are the most critical for me to learn in this course.

I think that it is critical to learn how to create a classroom environment which supports creativity - especially in my content area of mathematics. This is important to my students because mathematics should be taught in a way in which problems can be solved multiple ways and sometimes there are many correct answers. It is critical for my teaching that I develop creative problem solving strategies and tasks to give to my students in which they have to follow a problem-solving process with little assistance and prior knowledge. In my personal creative work, it is important to recognize myself as creative - like one of the statements above. It is also critical that I let myself notice more creativity in the world around me so that I can be inspired and also feed my own curiosity and creative needs.

I am not sure what "divergent thinking" is.... I do not know creative theories.... Personally, I am not creative (don't feel the need to be), but I know that I would be a better teacher if I could think more creatively.

- 1. For my students, I think it is important for me to learn more about how to create a creative environment in my classroom. I always appreciate the creative ideas my students put forth, but I know I could do more to accept and promote creativity.
- 2. For my teaching, I would like to improve my knowledge of creative thinking strategies so that I can better incorporate them into my lessons.
- 3. For me personally, the need to become comfortable with creativity is key. I was really struck by the word "comfortable" throughout this survey as it occurred to me how uncomfortable I actually am with creativity. I do not consider myself a creative person and I expect that this course will push me outside of my comfort zone.

I feel I am a creative person and a creative teacher. I believe that my students are ALL creative, even if they don't believe or realize it. I think there is a creativity continuum. All are on it. Creativity takes different forms. We are not creative in the same areas.

For me, I need to learn about the models and theories of creativity. I guess the way I see creativity is. . . creatively. (I made up my own definitions. Haha!)

creating a creative environment for my students



Creating a classroom environment that values motivation and creativity and creating an environment of creative problem solving.



Before 654: What are your thoughts on this statement? "A teacher who explores their own personal creativity is better prepared to supporting creativity in the classroom."

17 responses

I think that statement is really key in helping encourage students to explore their own creativity.

I completely agree with this statement. If you nurture your own garden, you can help others bloom.

I agree with this statement. As a reading and writing teacher, I feel strongly that I must also be a reader and writer. It is a similar idea with creativity.

I agree. It is important to experience the exploration, interpretation, and application of the creative process.

Once I know how creativity feels and helps my learning process I will better understand its importance to my students.

I feel that a teacher who explores their own creativity is more open-minded and receptive to their students' unique expressions of creativity. It helps the teacher understand that creativity is not a "one size fits all" category. If a teacher allows students to demonstrate their creativity it can increase their confidence, achievement, and motivation in (and out) of the classroom.

I feel the more creative a teacher is the more he/she can support their students. It is difficult to teach, encourage and grow something in a student if the teacher/adult has no experience with. I believe it would be similar to me attempting to coach football without ever doing or playing the sport myself. I believe if you have experienced something you can make a better connection with the students. I think the teachers do not need to necessarily be simultaneously creative with their students. Past experiences can also provide a supportive teacher.

By exploring my own creativity, it will allow me to see other creative avenues my students display.

I'd agree with this statement because the teacher would be able to better facilitate the creative process if he/she experiences it themselves.

I completely agree with this statement. To me, this statement almost reminds me of the famous phrase "if you're going to talk the talk, you must walk the walk". I do believe that in order to best support creativity in the classroom, it is beneficial for the teacher to explore their own personal creativity. If they have opened themselves up to the creative process, they will better support creativity in their classroom and be able to relate to the creativity of others.



I think it is unfair to ask our students to do anything we ourselves are not willing to do. Exploring my own creativity and reaching beyond my comfort zone is important for me to be able to support my students both in their own creative process and thinking, but also to support their motivations and emotions.

I agree with this statement. I think that as teachers, we have to be comfortable tinkering with things and exploring and being curious in order to encourage and motivate these traits in our students! I know that when I am given an answer key to math problems which show only one way to solve a given problem, this really closes off my thinking about how the problem could be approached differently.

probably true

I think this is very true and I think the key here is the willingness to explore. You don't need to necessarily be the most creative person in the room but you need to be comfortable with the areas in which you are creative. Not being connected to your own creativity makes it less likely that you will promote creative thinking in the classroom. I know that I am guilty of this. I find myself looking for the one right answer from students, or having them follow a specific structure or template when in reality there are many different ways to approach a question or problem.

I agree with this statement. Exploring creativity is a means to THINKING differently/more deeply. Had Art Fry and Spencer Silver not continued THINKING and using 3M products for the creative ideas they had, there would not be Post-It notes and no one would be able to use those for creativity. Creativity begets creativity.

I believe that is the case and I find when I am able to be more creative, my students are as well

I believe this statement to be completely true. I think it is similar to the statement that you cannot be loved by someone else until you love yourself. I think understanding your own creativity opens your mind to accepting and supporting the creativity of others.



Before 654: What are your thoughts on this statement? "I am creative."

17 responses

I think I would say that depends on what you arena you are asking me to be creative in.

I am a creative person who does not create creative space or time for myself.

I consider myself to be somewhat creative. I need to feel inspired and often explore my own creativity by using models.

I agree. I believe we all have the ability to be "creative" - we just have to understand what the definition of that is.

I think I am creative in some areas, but I don't often flex those muscles.

When someone says "I am creative", I feel it is an expression of self-confidence. This person feels they have different ways of viewing things and expressing themselves. They can create solutions and outcomes by thinking outside of the box and pulling ideas together in a not so common way.

I was very creative when I was a teenager/young adult. I took dance classes and that was an opportunity and great form of expression. Currently I coach cheerleading and do get to choreograph, but not as often as I would like and not the exact style of dance I would prefer. In my classroom I do contribute creative ideas to the math department and try to add opportunities to add creative touches to assignments and projects.

It is an affirmation that I tell myself a lot with my teaching! I am creative! I also have this on my affirmation mirror in my classroom for my students to say to themselves!

I have never thought of myself as a creative person. I tend to struggle with tasks that involve creative areas like art or music. It is difficult for me to come up with ideas for some broad tasks. Any form of creative writing or impromptu speaking is my worst enemy. This class will challenge me, but in a good way.

I immediately see this statement and jump to doubting my own creativity. I instantly think, well I am kind of creative. I feel that I do have a creative side, but I constantly let my insecurities silence my creative side. I am very excited to let go of some of those insecurities in this course and really explore and open up my creative side more. I do feel like I have a lot of untapped creative potential to explore.

I struggle with this statement. I know that most people in my life would describe me as creative, but I don't know that I would describe myself that way. For one, the people I see as creative seem to me, to be more sure of themselves and to have a niche or specific outlet for their creative energies. I tend to be constantly trying new things, and never settling into a



pattern. I don't know that I would equate my flexibility and willingness to explore new things as creativity, more just curiosity.

I actually have some emotion tied to this statement. When I was younger, my mom especially would always comment on how creative I was. I loved making art projects with whatever supplies we had around the house. I would come up with unique games to play with friends, and I was extremely curious - asking my mom questions about anything and everything (how does this work..? Why is this the way it is..?). I would say that I am still somewhat that person, but I do recognize that a busier life and more focus on my career has given me less time and energy to get back to that creative side of myself. I still see creativity in myself when I am able to create lessons and materials for students.

Yes, in some ways

My first reaction is to feel uncomfortable and think that I am not creative. I have always associated creativity with being artistic, being able to see things from multiple perspectives. I am much more of a logical, black and white type person. However, if I were to take a step back, I know that there are many areas of my life in which I am creative; it's just a matter of recognizing those areas. What I'm hoping to discover in this course is not just my own creativity but the ability to recognize areas of creativity in others, even when they are not obvious.

Every person IS creative. Period. Hands down. No further discussion needed.;)

But with that being said, people all need the tools and encouragement to explore their creativity.

I will never forget my junior year education professor, Dr. Robert Hines. As we were leaving the last class of the semester, he stood outside the door. He had a personal message for each of us. He took my hands in his and said, "You are one of the most creative students I've encountered. Please continue to explore your creativity." That was the first time I'd ever been told I was creative. It seriously opened an entirely new world in terms of how I thought and the things I did.

While yes, I am creative, I must continue to cultivate that creativity.

I don't feel I am creative because I am surrounded by MORE creative people than myself but when I really think about it, I am creative in creating things to do with my own children or students.

I do not find myself to be creative, I believe myself to be very literal and I love following directions!!! My sisters and husband laugh at me when I tell them I am not creative. I guess we will see!



After 654: Where did you feel you made the most growth in this class? What areas do you still feel you need or want to improve?

15 responses

I made the most growth by better understanding the importance of taking time to express myself creatively. This thought carries over into the classroom with our students, too!

I feel I made the most growth in incorporating creativity into the math classroom. I believe I am offering the students, both gifted and not, more opportunistic creative applications. I feel I still need to improve the creativity on my end. I firmly believe the more creative I am the better teacher I am encouraging students' creativity. I need to focus more on my creative self.

I made the most growth with understanding how to incorporate creativity in the classroom. I want to improve with my thought log and journaling my thoughts down.

In my ability to use the creative process. Some of the parts I was already using, but now I am more interested in exploring my own creativity. Taking the time for myself to use something that I used from this course. I never thought I would like meditations as much as I do now.

I feel that I can now easily articulate a rationale for including creativity in my teaching. Next, I feel that I can now confidently apply characteristics associated with creativity to a creative individual and be able to apply divergent thinking strategies in my classroom. Also, I feel that I can apply creative problem solving in my content area and know how to create a classroom environment that supports motivation and creativity. Lastly, I know of multiple creativity assessment instruments, and can articulate a rationale for and challenges associated with creativity assessment. In regards to my personal creative work, I feel that I can apply core attitudes and other aspects of the creative process to my personal life and to the creative process and performances of others. I do feel that I can keep improving on the creative process in my personal life and finding time to stretch the creative part of my brain.

I feel like I made the most growth in my own creativity. I think I learned a lot about myself and my own creative process. I challenged myself to take risks, but I think I can continue to work on risk-taking as well as coping with imperfections and frustrations associated with it. I would also like to continue to learn more about creative assessments for students and how to use them.

I feel I made the most growth in this class in understanding the different aspects of creative individuals and of the creative process. I realize the benefits of creativity and how being creative myself can allow me to gain inspiration and bring more creativity into my classroom. I still want to improve on implementing creative lessons in my classroom with divergent thinking and no right answers/many solutions.

I have made the most growth in understanding (and coming to respect) my own creativity. I have also grown in my appreciation of creative thinkers. I still need to improve (think of more opportunities) ways to implement creativity in my classroom.



I better understand the purpose and need for creative opportunities in my classroom.

I feel like I made the most growth in identification of creativity and the recognition of creativity both in my students and in the world around me. I would like to explore my own personal creativity more and continue to work on implementing creativity into my classroom both as a routine and in lessons. There was more than enough information in this course to help me, it is just a matter of me taking the time to make it happen.

I feel that I grew tremendously in the area of differentiation, student choice, and risk taking. I still want to explore ALL areas related to creativity and continue learning as much as possible.

I know and understand a lot more about how creativity works and shows up in people. I feel that I need to improve on how to build a creative classroom environment.

I grew in my personal, self-reflective work and learned a lot about the characteristics of creatively gifted individuals. I need to improve self discipline and time management along with trust in risk taking.

Exploring my own creativity and finding it in my students - I can still keep working on this are a even though I have improved greatly.

I feel I made the most growth in this class in the area of self-discipline. This class forced me to take the time to write in the thoughtlog and work on a project for myself. It was a rough start but I eventually focused and made the time to work on these things. I really want to work on bringing more creative opportunities into my classroom.



After 654 Reflection: Consider this statement: "A teacher who explores their own personal creativity is better prepared to support creativity in the classroom." Have your thoughts changed on this statement after taking this course?

15 responses

I completely agree with this statement! I believe that teachers who are in touch with their own creativity understand the importance of allowing students time and avenues to express their individual creativity, too.

I absolutely believe the more I explore my creativity the more I can nourish and provide my students with the same opportunity to express themselves. I noticed throughout the semester, as I was pushed to try activities and take risks, I was then doing the same to my students, both gifted and not. I am realizing to be the best teacher I can be, I need to continue to take risks myself and continue to explore and grow.

Slightly- I still feel that by exploring my own creativity, not only will it allow me to see other creative avenues my students display, it will help foster a more creative environment.

My thoughts haven't changed too much. If you want your students to use the creative process, the teacher should be able to use the creative process. Now I feel more prepared with facilitating the creative process.

Now that I have explored my own personal creativity, I do feel that I am much better prepared to support creativity in my own classroom. I see how important it is more than ever to support the creativity of my students and my own individual creativity. The more that I explore my own creativity, the better I feel that I can relate to my students when it comes to risk-taking and pushing themselves outside of their comfort zones.

I think my thoughts on this have stayed pretty much the same although I would add that a teacher who explores their own personal creativity is better prepared to support students emotions and motivations as well.

I still agree with this statement that a teacher exploring their own creativity is better prepared to support it in their classroom. I understand more that we have to be risk-takers and creative thinkers and explorers ourselves in order to ask our students to take on the same risks and vulnerability and challenges.

Well, I said "probably true" before, and now I know it to be true!

I agree completely. If we are to ask students to be risk-takers, we must be willing to take similar risks.

My thoughts have not changed! This course reinforced even more that this is a necessity and it is an area that I know I still need to work on even after taking this course.



I agree with it more, if that is possible.

I definitely agree. I have not explored my own personal creativity enough and that has led me to brushing it aside in the classroom.

After taking this course, I realize that it's not necessary for me to deeply explore my personal creativity to support creativity in the classroom. I can cultivate students' creative abilities without simultaneously exploring and developing my own.

I feel it is very true. While exploring my own creativity and exploring different aspects of creativity, I feel more prepared to identify and support my students in the classroom.

My thoughts have not changed much. I truly believe that teachers who are aware of their creativity and embrace it are better equipped to support their students. This is definitely an area of improvement for me.



After 654 Reflection: Consider this statement: "I am creative." Have your thoughts changed on this statement after taking this course?

15 responses

This course has stretched me to do some creative things I normally wouldn't do. I realize now that ways to be creative are limitless, and we sometimes need to take risks to find them.

I have always thought about myself as creative. Growing up I would take random household objects and create something new. As I grew and matured, I had the opportunity to take art and dance classes. Choreographing was one of my favorite ways to express myself. Once I became a mom and wife, I stopped doing things for me let alone trying to grow and explore new aspects of creativity. This course encouraged me to step outside of my comfort zone and try a new way to create. Not only did I like what I did, I am looking forward to trying more and continuing the form of expression. The final creativity project has brought back a spark in me that was missing for quite sometime.

No! It only affirms what I already believed to be true!

I am the most creative person ever... absolutely not. However, I think I have realized I am more creative than I initially thought.

My thoughts have changed after this course. I now feel that I am a creative person and every person has the ability to be creative. I feel that at a young age we are taught that we are either a creative person or not. I am so glad that I have awoken my creative side and I plan to never let it go dormant again!

My thoughts have definitely changed on this statement. I would now say with confidence that I am creative.

I do think that I am creative, but throughout this semester, I have grown more aware of how the current circumstances in my life are limiting my creativity and involvement in creative activities. I feel so bogged down by work in only my second year of teaching, and I am still learning the ropes of organization, classroom management, and all of the logistics of teaching. As I grow more comfortable in my role and take on more years, I will carve in intentional time to be creative in my life outside of school so that I can bring more of that into the school environment too.

I am more creative than I give myself credit for, I can see more aspects of my creativity now.

My thoughts have not changed much. I know I am a happier person when I am engaged in creative work.

I think I am still struggling to become comfortable with my own creativity but I have made progress. It is more a matter of me being personally open to being creative and having the time



to find that openness. I have definitely made strides in recognizing creativity in others and feel more confident that I fully appreciate creativity when I see it.

I feel freer to explore my own creativity.

I agree but now I know that I need to foster my own creativity more.

This course reminded me just how creative I was as a child and young adult and how much has changed. Instead of being a creative individual, I realize I am a creative mom, wife, teacher, daughter, sister, aunt, and friend. I didn't realize how much I have neglected my creative self prior to taking this class.

I know I am but have difficulty finding the time to truly be creative and quiet my mind enough to do so. I feel that through this class, I have come to the realization that I need to TAKE the time for me and to be more creative and thoughtful.

I still do not believe I am a very creative person but I do have some creative tendencies. I am hoping to continue working my project and to embrace my creative side to begin believing this statement.



After 654 Reflection: Consider this statement: "My students are creative." Have your thoughts changed on this statement after taking this course?

15 responses

I have no doubt that our students are very creative! My thoughts haven't changed, but I now understand more of the background and history that shape our students with different talents and interests.

I have always thought and believed my students were creative. My struggle was being able to offer the opportunity to show and express themselves in the math classroom. I now have many ideas and approaches in my pocket to incorporate creativity into my classes.

I think by practicing my own creativity will allow room for risk-taking with my students to show their creativity as well.

I can now see how my students are creative in many more ways than before.

I feel that all of my students are creative in someway and the goal is to get them to see that. My new goal as a teacher is to awaken the creative side in all of my students and have them understand that they all have the creative potential hidden inside.

I think before this course I would have identified a few of my students as creative - those who excel in the visual or performing arts mostly, but now I feel more prepared to see the creative aspects in all of my students.

I agree with this statement. My students are creative. My thoughts on this statement are that I need to allow my students to demonstrate more of this creativity that they possess within my own classroom for me to see and for them to continue developing. My students also need direct modeling of how to use their creativity and reflect on it so that they can hone in on their talents.

Not really - I know that they are :)

I have always believed my students are creative.

I already knew my students were creative but I am definitely more aware of it in my classroom after taking this course. When you observed me for 796, you pointed out a student for me that was drawing and working at the same time and commented that she was impressively right with the group despite working on other things. It might have seemed minor but made me wonder how many other students do I have that I tell to maybe put away drawing materials until a more appropriate time when really it is helping them focus or be expressive while still engaging in the content. The gifted class especially has several students that can multitask in that way and as long as it is not interfering in their learning or the learning of others, who am I to interfere with their creative outlet?



I still agree and am continuing to look for more ways to add creativity and comfort in risk taking in my class.

I know that they are creative but I need to practice bringing it out of them more.

I have learned so much more about my students' creative interests throughout the duration of this course. I am creating time for them to share their art, songs, and creative ideas during our live sessions.

They are and always will be more creative that me! However, now that I am in the middle school, I am seeing less and I hope to foster it more however possible.

I think I look at my students differently - perhaps through a more creative lens. I want to provide them with more opportunities to express themselves creatively in the classroom so in that sense, I do believe my thoughts have shifted.



After 654 Reflection: Please comment on the course itself, the texts, the instructor, the format, pace, level of challenge, anything you wish to share so that I can improve the course:

15 responses

This was a wonderfully challenging class! Thank you for asking us to step out of our comfort zones and explore ourselves so deeply!

I enjoyed the course very much. So many of the ideas discussed were able to be immediately applied with my students. I also enjoyed pushing me to explore my creative side that had been dormant for years. My favorite part was the creativity project. It "forced" me to try something new and I absolutely had a blast and can't wait to continue moving forward with my new passion.

It was a good pace and well planned, thank you!

I hardly used either of the books. Not sure if they were worth the money.

I really loved this course and it was my favorite course that I have taken so far at Ashland University. I feel that I really learned, was challenged, and enjoyed the assignments along the way. Thank you for making this class so wonderful:)

This was my favorite class in the program. Dr. Groman was very supportive and the videos were wonderful guides that made expectations clear and easy to follow while allowing room for creativity. I really enjoyed the thoughtlog assignment and I think it is a practice I will continue in my daily life.

The course was very unique and not at all what I expected! I enjoyed that we focused on ourselves as creative individuals and discussed what we can implement in the classroom with students to develop creativity. I enjoy how Dr. Groman was modeling things that we could do with our own students the same ways we could in the classroom. The syllabus and assignment list seemed very intimidating at first, so I would make sure to assure students that they will slowly chip away at these things (with good planning and time management) and the final products of most projects are not huge productions, but casual slideshows or videos showing what we know and how we may apply things.

I was not looking forward to the class (thought it was not my cup of tea), but I ended up respecting and loving this class! really!

I enjoyed this course immensely. I appreciated the variety of choices.

I found this course the most challenging of the gifted courses I have taken 1) because I struggle with creativity within myself and 2) because of circumstances at home that have nothing to do with the course. This was the first course I took while working full time AND having two small children at home who do not sleep. I hate to make excuses but this fall was a



huge struggle for me. I don't know that I personally got out of this course what I would have liked to as I was unable to give it the time and attention it deserves. I think the pace and the texts were great, relevant and will be used in the future and my own personal creativity deserves some more exploration. I really appreciate the time and energy you spend making these courses useful and relevant!

This was, by far, the best course of the six for the gifted endorsement. The one thing I was not overly excited about was, oddly enough, the creativity project. I'm not completely sure why though. My favorite activity was the meditation day field trip and the reflection assignment.

I thought the class was great and refreshing, and I wish I had invested more in it earlier.

This course was the challenge I didn't know I needed. Everything was perfect about this class. I wish I was better prepared and had not faced so many life challenges during this time. Grieving the lost and the living while navigating the texts, readings, activities, and subject matter of this course proved too much for me to handle. This was much more than an online graduate course, I wish it were a 10 day retreat in an ashram type setting.

Great course! I was told it would probably be my favorite, and it was along with 653. Dr. Groman is so accommodating and helpful that it made this class even more effective.

I enjoyed this course despite the uncomfortable feelings I had quite frequently while completing some of the work. It pushed me to try new things which will be beneficial personally but also professionally. I think the level of challenge was great - I felt uneasy at times but not so uneasy that I didn't feel I could complete the work.

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