This course allowed me for the first time to work collaboratively online. As mentioned in previous artifacts, situated learning within a community of practice is my preferred way of learning. Upon completion of the design project I have reflected on the successes of the project as well as suggestions for improvement to be considered in designing future online learning modules.

***Successes***

I have often taken the role as group leader in work situations in the past. Setting up a timeline of due dates and direction for the project helped us stay on track and provided encouragement as tasks were completed. It is always a challenge whilst working in groups to ensure enough direction and tasks are delegated but ensuring that in a leading role that one doesn’t take over the project. This can be difficult if some group members are silent member or do not meet deadlines.

As a group we chose to communicate and work together using a Google Doc. Having recent experience with using Google Docs I found this a preferred way of working. I was fortunate that one of the group members had more experience using Docs so I learned to expand how I used Google Docs. It was very useful to create a group and have files uploaded to view. Comments and bookmarks were added to aid navigation and communication. It took time to keep the document in working order so that it did not just become a jumble of ideas and resources but this was necessary to keep our work moving forward.

I was fortunate to work on a design project with reference to Business Studies at senior level as I hope to teach that subject in the future. Our group was fortunate to have an expert in this topic that provided valuable information and insight into the content and planning of our work. All group members were aware and provided good visual content to the wiki. Learning resources today need to be visually attractive, easy to use, as well as, accurate and useful in the content they provide.

***Suggestions for Improvement***

As a group we chose to communicate through the Google Doc and through email. This worked well but I would certainly include synchronous discussion time at regular intervals throughout project design. A couple of times I was able to use the chat function on the Google Doc to clarify the direction we would head as we came upon stumbling blocks in our planning. Towards the end of the project, from my perspective, I was unaware of participation from one group member. This will always be a potential difficulty in doing any type of group work but is compounded when the group is only communicating asynchronously online.

Our wiki took shape as we built the project and added content. As part of a community of practice we were able to receive feedback on the wiki that helped improve the final product. Initially the content pages contained too much information that required the user to scroll through the tasks. This was initially changed to linking the subtopics using a table of contents. But we eventually used the progression through each topic by linking to multiple pages. In designing future learning projects I will certainly attempt to link the tasks and content to ensure adequate scaffolding and ease of navigation.