

Reflective Report

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1. Introduction

Looking back on my time in the Academic Skills module, I'm honestly surprised by how much has shifted, not just in class, but in the way I handle things every day. Every part of this module made me stop and rethink my approach, whether we were arguing about a group project, debating, or just chatting before lectures. Now that I have a moment to pause, I want to lay out what I actually learned, where I still struggle, and how my idea of being a "good learner" has completely flipped. I never felt like I could just sit back and coast. This module wasn't about ticking boxes. With Task 1, Task 2, group work, and all the class discussions, I always had to be tuned in and part of things. Skills I barely thought about before like managing my time, figuring out how real research works, and thinking critically just became part of my everyday routine. Academic writing especially threw me for a loop. I had to drop my old style and adjust to something more formal, but I still wanted my writing to feel like my own. Looking back, it's obvious: I've changed the way I work and think in so many ways. I'm coming out of this with a much clearer sense of what actually matters as I head deeper into university.

2. Description of Experiences

Starting the module felt a bit like getting tossed in the deep end. Task 1 landed on my desk almost immediately. I had to build a real argument, use legitimate sources, and somehow capture that academic tone everyone talks about. Honestly, just organizing my thoughts sometimes felt impossible, like fumbling through a puzzle

that was missing pieces. Some days everything clicked, other days I'd just stare at a single paragraph, totally stuck. I wasted so much time chasing down sources, only to hit dead ends again and again. But even those frustrating moments taught me something. Then Task 2 came along and made things even trickier. Quick summaries and copy-pasting just weren't enough anymore. I had to find the best evidence, actually connect ideas, and make my own case. Moving from just piling up research to really analyzing and using it was way harder than I expected. Still, with practice, it got a bit more manageable even if making my arguments flow smoothly was always a challenge. I realized that just dumping out summaries was never going to get me far. But honestly, what caught me off guard was how helpful group discussions turned out to be. I used to see them as a waste of time. Then we started breaking down each other's essays, giving honest feedback, and looking closely at what worked and what just didn't. Suddenly, all those ideas about structure and focus actually made sense. Practicing these skills with real people, not just in theory was a game changer, both in the group and on my own.

3. Analysis and Personal Reflection

Now, looking back on the whole process, I can see where I've grown and where I still stumble. I actually show up to class wanting to learn, not just to be a name on the attendance sheet. I pay attention, hit deadlines, join in on discussions, and care about what I submit. I never had that drive before, but now I've built a solid foundation just by showing up and putting in real effort. My writing has changed the most. My first go at Task 1 was a mess, nothing fit, my arguments were weak, and the tone was off. But by Task 2, things started making sense. My points were stronger, my structure held up, and referencing finally meant something to me. Understanding why referencing matters gave me a real confidence boost. I still struggle with critical analysis, though. I can summarize, but going deeper, questioning things, or adding my own angle is still hard. Task 2 really highlighted how I need to push past just repeating what I've read. Time management's another rough spot. I get things in on time, but it is usually a mad dash at the end. That stress means I don't get much time to review or make things better. The few times I broke the work into chunks and started early, everything felt smoother and turned out better in the end. That's a habit I need to stick with. Group projects changed the way I

work. At first, I just tried to blend in and let everyone else take charge. But with time, I started speaking up, paying attention to other ideas, and realized we did better when everyone actually contributed. Sharing my thoughts got easier, and it felt good to know my input had an impact. One thing that stuck is the habit of pausing to reflect actually thinking about what's working and what isn't. After Task 1, I looked at my feedback and tried to build on it for Task 2. Seeing real progress made it clear that reviewing and editing really do make a difference. That's where things improve. Now I'm way more independent. When something doesn't work out, I look for solutions and ask for help, find new resources, or try a different approach. It's more than just chasing better grades; it honestly feels like I'm growing up. All these changes add up. I can see it in how I write, research, and communicate. Now I know what I'm good at, what still needs work, and I have the tools to keep moving forward.

4. Conclusion

Honestly, this module pushed me right out of my comfort zone. The assignments, group work, and all those discussions helped me find my voice as a writer, pushed me to speak up, and made me face the stuff I still need to work on. There is still plenty to improve, especially critical analysis and managing my time better. But at least now, I know exactly where to focus and how to start. I'm genuinely proud of the progress I've made. I feel ready for what's coming up, and for the first time, I'm actually excited to keep building on these skills as I move forward at university.