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Academic skills
(HPFY3010)

Assignment 4

Word Count 526

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1. Please check the following text for readability, grammar and syntax.

I confirm that I have not presented any AI generated text as my own work. I confirm I have copies of my drafts, notes, and other resources I used before, and after the use of AI tools which I may be asked to provide in evidence.

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Reflective Statement.

These are my issues, how I dealt with them, and how I will move forward.

Imposter syndrome was a problem for me. I applied through clearing and, if I am honest, was surprised when I got accepted. I initially thought I was taking up a space, that I wasn't academic. I overcame this by turning up and being part of the conversation in lectures. As an introvert, it took a lot out of me to speak up, and it was a struggle, but eventually, I realised this was my opportunity to learn and get the best out of my course and my tutors. Eventually, I accepted that everyone finds learning hard work. I found out that I could write, I could research, and I could speak up for myself. As we enter the second semester, I will no doubt get nervous when encountering new ideas and subjects, but I will remember that we are all on a foundation course and are learning the skills needed to move forward.

Another issue I had was picking a subject to research, in this case, the Punic Wars. I soon realised the topic was too broad; the period was enormous and sometimes overwhelming. It was fascinating, and I was disappearing down the rabbit hole of research, from anchors and naval remains to how the war affected the Roman elite, where I should start and, more importantly, stop. I dealt with this by reducing the search to the Second Punic War, which gave me a better way of filtering out what I needed. If I had this assignment again, I would have further narrowed my focus. I would concentrate my research on looking into a key player such as Hannibal or even narrow it down to a specific event. It would have been a far more effective and time-efficient research method.

Making sure to read the question and keep the question in mind was another thing I had to learn, as my second assignment needed peer-reviewed sources. Even though I had plenty of sources, it soon became apparent that not all were peer-reviewed and that one misreading of the question would have caused me to fail the assignment. To ensure I didn't repeat that, I copied the question on paper and kept asking myself while researching and writing, 'Am I answering the question?' I kept asking myself if this source meets the requirements and not get dragged off to a non-peer-reviewed world. Next time, I will deal with this by reading the

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question, copying it, and breaking it down to see what is needed to answer it effectively. I will also save time by not having to redo the work.

This first term has been a challenge in a good way. I felt myself grow as the 10 weeks passed. I got more comfortable and confident in the subjects and how to approach them. I walked away from every lecture, feeling like a gap in my knowledge or skill had been filled. As I continue the journey, mistakes will be made, but I also know every mistake is a chance to grow and fill the gaps in my knowledge.