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ACS report

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Module Code: LCLM4001

Module: Academic Skills

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1 Introduction

This reflection focuses on my experience at the university about academic skills, they are the key tools to help learn including abilities like research, writing, time management and problem-solving. They are crucial as they enable individuals to understand, analyse, and convey complex ideas and prepare them for diverse professional challenges. People attending college or university are expected to have well-developed academic skills in order to succeed in their degrees.

2 Description of Experiences

My experience about academic writing was the first one who made me learn that uses a very different style to other types of writing, which might need a bit of getting used to. Academic writing isn't about impressing people with "big words" or being overly formal. The main aim is to be clear, concise and usually objective so that you can communicate your ideas effectively. Instead of being formal, academic writing uses neutral words and avoids informal, conversational language. For example, "many factors" is more academic than "loads of things".

During this module I have had the opportunity to develop several key skills including paraphrasing.

I've learned that paraphrasing is a way of using different words and phrasing to present the same ideas. It is used with short sections of text but replaced with your own words. In my journey of learning we have several examples in class about how to paraphrase, where first time I find very difficult being my first time doing that, but with practice I have improved myself. In class to paraphrase I used synonyms, I also change the grammar and sentence structure, make sure I keep the main topic idea.

3 Personal Reflection

My personal reflection about these 2 skills was a challenge specially with academic writing, at first I struggled with structuring ideas clearly and using formal language. In the mean time I learned the importance of planning, researching, during the class our teacher always said put your thoughts first on a separate paper so we can make a clear idea. I also discovered that academic writing is not just about following rules, but about developing a critical voice and presenting arguments logically. Academic writing has strengthened my thinking, discipline, and ability to communicate ideas.

Paraphrasing has been an important skill in my academic writing journey, I found it difficult to change sentences without losing the original meaning, sometimes I ended up copying too closely or oversimplifying ideas in class during group exercise and I've been so frustrated about it. With practice, I realized that paraphrasing is more than replacing words; it requires understanding the text very well and then expressing it in my own way.

3.1 Evaluation

With academic writing was a real struggle for me because I was not used to use formal words and I do not know how to organise all my words from my head , but with practice specially in class I am able now to organize ideas clearly and support them . To improve myself I first start write all my idea on a blank paper and after I write down my main idea , I have developed more confidence in me and answer more during class .I still struggle with paraphrasing and applying correct referencing styles consistently.

With my paraphrasing skills I recognize both progress and challenges , I learned that is not just about replacing words but understand all the text and restating in my own style . This skill has helped me avoid plagiarism and integrate sources more smoothly into my writing , I still struggle with complex sentences , where my versions may lose accuracy or oversimplify ideas . I also need to improve my ability to vary sentence structures.

3.2 Analysis

In my journey with academic writing , I have realized it is more than just putting words on paper; it is about thinking critically and communicating ideas with clarity. .Writing academically has pushed me to research deeply , organise my thoughts and express arguments logically. Over time , I noticed that these challenges improved my discipline and attention to details , patience because drafting and revising are necessary for quality work.

People often explain paraphrasing as ,”Just write it in your own words “, as if this is an easy thing to do.In fact ,paraphrasing can take more time , thought , and practice then people give it credit for .Don’t be discouraged if you find paraphrasing challenging ,because is a complex process but it will get easier with practice and understanding.

(Oxford Brookes University)

3.3 Further Actions

To improve my academic writing , I plan to take several steps , like to read more academic articles to expand my vocabulary , I will practice paraphrasing to express ideas clearly in my own words to avoid plagiarism and be more easy when I have a task to complete , because of this mistakes and don’t practice enough I lose marks , I will revise all materials from class and our homeworks.

For paraphrasing I will practice more with all the materials I have it from class and I will start by reading several times to gain understanding ,note down key concepts , writing my own version , compare the 2 text , cite the source of the original text .

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4 Conclusion

In conclusion academic skills play a very important key role in achieving success in Higher Education and beyond , taught me patience and discipline . These skills have made me more confident in expressing myself and don’t be ashamed of my ideas . I know I still have areas to improve , especially with referencing , but I feel proud of the progress I have made .Overall ,

building academic skills has shaped me into more focused , reflective , and idependent learner.

References

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