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ACS report

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Introduction

When I entered university, I remember feeling a bit scared. The biggest challenge I have faced in my life has been moving to an English-speaking country without speaking the language, and I was scared I would not be able to keep up with the classes because I could not understand the teacher. That concern disappeared on the first day when the teacher told us that we don't have to worry. She reminded us that we were there because we had shown that we were capable of speaking, writing, and understanding English, which helped calm my self and made me feel more confident in my adaptation process.

Personal experience

One of the first experiences that marked me was when the teacher asked us if we had noticed what was happening in the world. A classmate mentioned the situation in the United States, which started a debate about what information was true and what was not. Through this conversation, the teacher taught us an important lesson: we cannot believe everything we see on the internet. Although many students did not have facts to defend their points of view, she did, and through this exercise, I realized the importance of verifying sources of information.

Academic Skills

A key concept I learned in this course was the importance of being critical with the information I find online. Often, people trust the first thing they see or read on the internet without questioning it. Thanks to applying the CRAAP method, I am now more aware that not all information I find is reliable. I learned to identify trust sources and look for warning signs, such as whether a website is paying for propaganda or if the content has not been updated recently, among other things (Blakeslee, S2004). These tools have helped me make more informed decisions, both in my academic and personal life.

Throughout this course, I have gained valuable tools, such as "Time Management," and strategies that have helped me improve various aspects of my life. At first, I don't fully understand the concept or how this skill could be useful, since I thought it was simply about having a schedule. The teacher taught us a deeper and more strategic approach. By using the Eisenhower Matrix, I learned how to organize my schedule based on the urgency and importance of tasks. Now I have the ability to prioritize my

personal, work, and academic activities, and I have found a balance, organized my time better, and created more space to enjoy my hobbies.

Some time ago, I decided to start my own business as a self employed offering braiding services. One of the biggest challenges I faced was organizing my appointments and making sure I don't overload myself with work. By applying the time management techniques I learned in class, I am now able to organize my schedule better, offer more flexible hours to my clients, avoid canceling appointments last minute, and prevent overwork. One of the tools I have been using with my regular clients is Calendly (Ali, 2023), which allows them to schedule a time that I also have free in my calendar to offer my service. This has greatly simplified managing my work time. Thanks to this organization, I have received very positive feedback from my clients, which motivates me to keep improving and growing in my business.

One of the biggest challenges for me has been adapting to the English language. As I mentioned at the beginning, I moved to an English-speaking country without fully mastering the language. Although at first, I felt that the language barrier would be an insurmountable obstacle, I soon discovered that with effort and dedication, I could improve. Throughout this module, I was able to improve my academic writing skills, paragraph writing, and summarizing, which I initially thought would be very difficult because my English was more conversational. However, in the lesson for Academic Writing, the teacher gave clear explanations, and through practice, I felt more confident writing in English. This confidence has been crucial to my academic and personal development.

Additionally, organizing my notes has been another area in which I have significantly improved. Before, my notes were messy and hard to follow. I didn't have a clear system for organizing the information, which caused confusion when studying. However, I learned efficient note-taking methods that have allowed me to have clearer and more structured notes. Now, I keep my notes organized by topics and with key annotations, making it easier for me to review before exams.

The only inconvenience I have had so far is that the classes are on Saturdays and Sundays, which would be good working days for me as a self-employed person.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this course has been essential for my academic and personal growth. I have learned to manage my time more effectively, to be critical of the information I consume online, and to improve my writing skills, among other aspects. For me, these are the most important factors. Moreover, the note organization methods and the focus on academic writing have made me more efficient in my studies. Thanks to all the knowledge I have gained, I feel better prepared to face the challenges that come my way and continue progressing in my university career and personal projects. This course has not only provided me with invaluable tools for academic success, but also helped me develop a stronger sense of discipline and responsibility.

Reference list

Ali Abdaal, (2023) "How I Manage My Time - 10 Time Management Tips available at: <https://youtu.be/iONDebHX9qk?si=3gDISQYSl6nhijVx> (Accessed on 12/04/2025)

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