

LCLM 4001 Academic Skills

Task 3 ☐

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Introduction

I have attended a module called the Academic Skills. The goal of writing this report is to reflect on my learning journey throughout this course. While reflecting, I will focus on the development of key higher education competencies. In this course, I have been able to engage in various learning activities such as Academic Skills Quiz, the Application of Academic Skills Exercise, etc. These experiences had been helpful to be able to strengthen my abilities in time management, academic writing, paraphrasing, note taking, etc. This reflection will act to critically analyse my strengths and areas for improvement.

Description of Experiences

Throughout the module, I have participated in structured learning activities that has been designed to build my core academic skills. In task 1, I have attended an Academic Skills Quiz. By attending this test, I had been able to develop my understanding of various concepts such as referencing, identifying credible sources, and recognising academic misconduct. Referencing is a key skill that is essential for each academic writing (Silvia, 2018). This exercise has made me aware of the importance of precision when applying Harvard referencing. I have also been able to identify the way minor errors in referencing can come into play to affect the credibility.

In case of task 2, I have attempted an exercise which was related to application of Academic Skills. I needed to make a number of concise notes from a short text as part of it. I also had to attempt to paraphrase my sentences accurately. I also had to write a coherent paragraph that adhered to academic conventions. This activity can be found to be reinforcing the importance of active reading (Giltrow et al., 2021). For that, I had to filter out the less relevant details and focus on key points.

Beyond these formal tasks, I also had to attend various class discussions. These class discussions were focused on plagiarism, effective research strategies, etc. These have come into play to broaden my academic perspectives. The group activities also encouraged the peer to peer learning. The peer to peer learning is important in case of academic learning as it can be helpful to gain different perspectives on approaching assignments (Cottrell, 2024). These experiences have been able to collectively contribute to my understanding of the way aspects like how academic integrity, structured writing, etc. are essential for success in higher education.

Analysis and Personal Reflection

Strengths

One of my key strengths during this module was my note taking ability. In task 2, I was able to capture essential ideas in a structured manner. It has been helpful for me to paraphrase and write a coherent paragraph. I have also been able to show strong organisation and time management skills. It has been helpful for me to ensure that I could complete both in class tasks within the

allocated time.

My attention to academic integrity was another major strength. The quiz in task 1 had requirements like applying referencing rules and so. I was also confident to identify credible sources and apply the Harvard format correctly. This skill will turn out to be invaluable for me in the future. In any academic or research based tasks, I will need to properly apply this skill.

Areas for Improvement

My note taking skill was effective but my paraphrasing skills required further development. I have found these challenging to rephrase ideas without altering meaning. It had occasionally led to awkward sentence structure or sentences that can be interpreted in different ways (Soles, 2015). So, I will need to focus on these skills and work hard to be able to ensure clarity and originality. Another area for improvement is my critical analysis. In group discussions, I could identify a number of key points. However, I have found to be struggling to connect them to broader theories or concepts. In academic writing, it is important to be able to engage more deeply with the academic literature (Soles, 2015). It will be helpful for me to strengthen my ability to justify arguments with evidence.

In addition to that, my referencing consistency needs refinement. I had been able to understand the rules of Harvard referencing. However, small errors like incorrect punctuation or missing italics are minor issues that I cannot always remember or ensure in my writing. These can come into play to reduce the professionalism of my work.

Lessons Learned

The most significant lesson that I have been able to learn by attending this course was the value of preparation. For task 1, reviewing lecture notes and practising referencing had been helpful for me to approach the quiz with confidence. I had also been able to learn the value of active engagement in class activities. These came into play to understand different perspectives on academic challenges (Day, 2023). The paraphrasing exercise in Task 2 have shown the importance of language precision in academic writing. Also, the feedbacks that I have received were helpful for me to identify my errors and find out the ways I can address these errors.

Impact on Personal and Academic Development

This module has been helpful to increase my confidence in academic writing. The structured approach has been helpful for me to recognize the importance of combining technical skills with critical thinking. I have become capable to approach assignments with a clearer structure in mind. This process does not only improve my academic performance but also increases my employability.

Conclusion

The academic skills module has provided me with the essential tools that I will require to ensure my success in the higher education. Task 1 and 2 has been helpful for me to strengthen my note taking, time management, etc. It has also been helpful for me to identify areas for growth in paraphrasing, referencing accuracy, etc. The module has not only improved my academic capabilities but has also contributed to my personal development. In future, I will continue to refine my skills and apply the strategies that I have learned to ensure high standards of academic and professional practices.

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