

Introduction

This report explains in detail how the development of my academic skills through the learning I have done in this module have significantly contributed to the enhancement of my academic writing skills, note-taking skills and research skills. In this report I will utilize Gibbs' Reflective Cycle to analyze my learning journey along with identifying areas of improvement and outline my plans for further improvement.

Description

Academic Writing Skills

Before doing this module, my academic writing skills were about average but lacked refinement. I struggled with structuring my essays effectively, integrating sources and maintaining coherence throughout my writing. However, the different assignments and activities in the module, I have made some very significant improvements in my academic writing skills.

One of the main areas where I could see the significant improvement has been in structuring my essays more effectively. I have learned how to create more clear thesis statements, organize my ideas logically and develop well thought arguments throughout my essays. The module gave me multiple opportunities to practice these skills through writing assignments, each with its own set of requirements and guidelines.

Another area of improvement has been in integrating sources effectively. Before this module, I found it very difficult to incorporate evidence from academic sources into my essay. However, through the module, I have now learned how to locate, evaluate and integrate sources a lot more easier than before. I have also found myself to use things such as citation styles.

Feelings

At first, this load of information was very overwhelming by the academic writing requirements of the module, especially the need to integrate sources effectively. However, as time went by and I slowly progressed through the module and received feedback on my work, my confidence grew. I then began to see improvements in my writing and become more comfortable with the academic writing system.

Evaluation

Overall, I am very thankful for everyone that has helped me through my journey and I am pleased with the progress I have made in my academic writing skills during this module. I have learned how to structure my essays in a way where everyone would be able to understand where I'm coming from, integrate sources much easier and develop coherent arguments. However, I recognize that there is still room for a lot more for me to learn and improve, especially in refining my writing style and vocabulary.

Analysis

One of the main key factors that have helped me improve with my academic writing skills was the feedback I received on my assignments. The feedback provided by my tutor has helped me identify areas for improvements and has provided me with suggestions for how to enhance my writing, in ways that I by myself wouldn't be able to identify. Additionally, the different kind of resources and materials provided as part of the module, such as writing guides, they were a very big help in developing my academic writing skills.

Note-Taking Skills

Before starting this module, my note-taking skills were fairly good but not excellent, nothing special, I often struggled to keep up with the pace of lectures and found that my notes were very often disorganized and incomplete to the point where it would sometimes not even make any sense so it was all pointless, I couldn't revise anything from reading them. However, throughout the module, I have learned several techniques for improving my note-taking skills.

One of the most rewarding techniques I learned was how to use shorthand and symbols to take notes more quickly during lectures. This has put me in a spot where I could capture more information in a shorter amount of time and has significantly improved the quality of my notes. I have also learned how to organize my notes a lot better than before by using techniques such as mind mapping and cornell note-taking method.

Feelings.

At first, I felt very overwhelmed by the amount of information that I was presented during lectures and struggled to keep up with my note-taking very often which made me anxious because I would think that I would be left behind, therefore I won't be able to revise for my assignments or exams. However, as I learned and practiced new note-taking techniques, I then started to feel more confident in my ability to understand and organize information more effectively.

Evaluation

Overall, the module has helped me develop and refine my note-taking skills by a lot. I have learned many new ways for taking notes more effectively and have seen a drastic improvement in the quality of my notes. However, I recognize that there is still room for improvement, specifically in organizing and synthesizing information more effectively.

Reflective Report: Enhancing Academic Skills through Module Learning

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Analysis

One of the main key factors that has helped with my improvement in note-taking skills was that I had the opportunity to practice new techniques in a supportive environment. The module gave me many opportunities to practice new note-taking techniques during lectures, workshops as well but personally I did not attend any workshops, and I also received feedback on my progress from my tutor on my assignments or any work that I have done in class. The various resources and materials provided, such as note-taking guides and templates, were very helpful in helping me develop my note-taking skills.

Finding Information / Research Skills

Having the ability to find and evaluate information effectively is needed for academic success. Before starting this module, I always struggled to find relevant and reliable sources for my assignments, my whole process was often very disorganized and inefficient. But thanks to this module, I have learned and found out about several strategies for improving my research skills.

One of the key skills I have managed to develop is how to use the academic databases techniques more effectively to find relevant sources for my work. I have learned how to construct effective search queries, evaluate the credibility of sources and synthesize information from multiple sources to support my informed arguments. At last, I have learned how to use citation management tools such as Zotero to organize my sources.

Feelings

When I first started this module, everything was very overwhelming, all the information and the research requirements of the module, especially the need to find and evaluate sources most effective way possible. However, as I learned and practiced new research techniques that I have been taught or learned from my own experience, I then began to feel more confident in my ability to find and evaluate information effectively.

Evaluation

Overall, I am very thankful for everyone that has been part of my journey in helping me, I am very pleased with the progress I have made in my research skills during this module. I have learned several new techniques for finding and evaluating information effectively and have seen a very drastic improvement in the quality of my research. However, I am convinced that there is still room for much more improvement, particularly in evaluating sources more effectively and integrating them more seamlessly into my own writing.

Analysis

One of the main key factors that contributed to my improvement in doing research was the opportunity to practice new techniques in a supportive environment. The module has lent me multiple opportunities to practice new research techniques. And I received feedback on my progress from my tutor. The various resources and materials that have been provided as part of the module, such as guides and tutorials, were very useful with helping me develop my research skills.

Action Plan

I have identified several areas for further development when it comes to my personal academic skills:

1. Academic Writing Skills:

- Refine my academic writing style, this would be done by reading more academic texts and practicing writing regularly.
- Pay attention to sentence structure and vocabulary choice to improve the clarity of my own writing.

2. Note-taking skills:

- Continue to try and perfect my note-taking skills by practicing techniques such as shorthand, mind mapping and the cornell note-taking method
- Review my notes more often to reinforce my own understanding and learning and ensure that I retain the information

3. Finding Information/Research Skills

- Continue to develop my research skills by practicing techniques such as constructing effective search queries and evaluating the credibility of all sources.
- Continue to improve my critical thinking skills so that I can evaluate sources more effectively and integrate them easier into my own writing.