

Task 3 LCLM4001 Academic Skills Reflective Writing Template

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Module code and title	LCLM4001 Academic Skills
Name of Task	Task 3- Reflective Report
Lecturer	Simon Chatterton
Time Allowed	2hrs 30mins
Word count	900 words +/- 10 % (excluding words already on the template)

Using the Gibbs Reflective Cycle

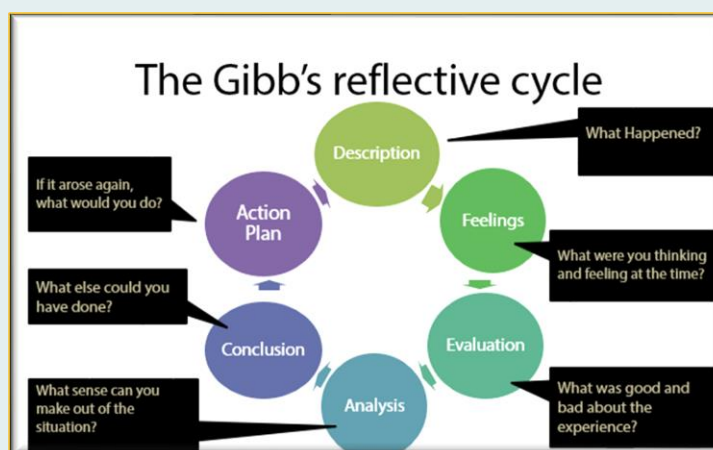
Using the Gibbs reflective cycle, write a reflection of your learning journey on the LCLM 4001- Academic Skills Module. Your writing should

focus on at least **ONE or TWO** experiences you had while studying the module.

Examples of in-class experiences you can reflect on are:

- Task 1 and Task 2
- Class activities and discussions (e.g., topics covered in class such as referencing and paraphrasing)
- Feedback received
- Skills you have developed

(The boxes will expand as you type)



Description

(What happened? Describe the experience or experiences in class that you want to reflect on)

At first referencing felt like a very difficult task, very technical and extremely hard to add in writing. I had to be careful about getting the dates right, the surname and the initials had to be placed in the

correct way. The punctuation, all the commas and full stops to be added correctly. Every idea that you have needs a traceable origin like a website or a book. Every time, we would have to do referencing in class, my mood would shift because I know there would be an obstacle in front of me, making me not enjoy the class. All because of this referencing and in text citation we would have to do. It made me wonder, that if we do in text citation why would we need a longer reference. It was frustrating, as I would have to look for the number page, the author, the publish date. To find these, I would have to go on and off from different websites, making me feel overstimulated and starting to give up. I learned about referencing in college. However, it was the same struggle then, struggling to do it correctly, as I would forget the way to place the dates, names and titles.

There is different styles of referencing for academic writing for example; Harvard, APA style, In text citation and Chicago styles, which can make it very confusing for most students. Now that I have done it more, studying about referencing even at home and watching videos, I gradually become more familiar with the process. It didn't feel like an obstacle to stop me from

	enjoying class, it made me challenge my knowledge and expand it so I could use it whenever I needed to. I'm not an expert but referencing made me more disciplined, to double-check my writing and the source page. Overall, referencing is quite the challenge but once you learn that a in text citation isn't really a requirement but it's more like a connection to help pull all your work together. Referencing gives work more credibility.
Feelings <i>(What were you thinking and feeling at the time? How did you feel before / during / and after the experience? Did you feel overwhelmed / confident / nervous? Were you alone in feeling this way or did other students share your feelings?)</i>	At the start, I was genuinely very confused, I thought the confusion would be never-ending, that I will be stuck on referencing for so long. As I mentioned, I did learn about it during my time in college, using it in my essays, I still struggled with it back then as much as I struggled with it at first when I started my course at university. Stress took over my body as soon as referencing or intext citation was mentioned. To me it seemed so challenging since I wasn't focusing on learning more about it, instead I was worried of me getting wrong even if I tried. Furthermore, I realized that even if I do a mistake, my tutor can help me and tell me what's wrong and I wouldn't do the same mistake again. They would

	help me utilise what I already know and what I do wrong, since the advice my tutor would give me should be read and listened to. (Dawson, Catherine, 2014, p.144.) Learning from your mistakes it's more effective than fearing of getting it wrong. Worrying gets us nowhere, learning helps us build up the steps to a stronger academic confidence. There was a lot more students struggling with referencing which made me feel less alone and seen. It also helped me to not be ashamed of asking question during classes and these questions would help others know about it as well.
Evaluation <i>(What was good and bad about the experience?)</i>	The worse part about this experience was the stress, the academic stress which I haven't experienced since college days. Not being able to focus because of the stress that would control my mind, struggling with an important academic topic can really affect your mind and the way you focus on classes. During referencing lessons, I wouldn't be able to focus and pay attention to what my tutor was saying. However, from all the bad experiences, there was a great outcome which made me more confident in using in text citation and Harvard style referencing.
Analysis	The situation was negative as it impacted my mental state, as I

(What sense can you make out of the situation?) Why was the situation positive or negative?

When things went well, what role did you play? When things went badly, can you explain why? Do you know how if other students felt the same as you? Why or why not?

mentioned about stress. It was negative, not just mentally but also it would make me procrastinate or not finish my work during the class. Leading to rushing and less time available for the work presented. The experience was also positive as throughout the negatives there was the positive outcomes such as confidence, learning from mistakes and asking my tutor questions which helped building the relationship with my tutor more trustworthy. (Dawson, Catherine, 2014, p.145.)

Conclusion

(What else could you have done? Or what could you have improved? What could you do differently next time)

To maximize more positive experiences, I could have done multiple things differently. When I struggled since the start, I was ashamed to ask anyone for help, it took some time for me to ask for help, if I would've tried to ask for help earlier than I did, then I would've been able to know more about referencing and use it in past work to really show credibility of my work. Instead of procrastinating of studying more about referencing at home, I should've tried harder to study at home so I could build a stronger foundation for different referencing styles. This would increase my confidence during class work and also for different assignments.

Action Plan

From now on I will put my education first, I will try to catch up

(Create a plan to support you in learning/
developing the skills you need to improve
the situation next time)

with any lessons that I have missed. Those lessons might be helpful for any topics I'm struggling with. Catching up would allow me to know more about my course and where and when I need to use different academic skills. To develop my referencing skills, since I'm not overly confident in it, I will study more at home, watch some videos or even try and reference different examples myself. Overall, I will improve what I struggle with through work at home and making my academic skills one of my priorities.

Reference list

(Dawson, Catherine, (2014). *The mature student's study guide; essential skills for those*, p 144.)

Dawson, Catherine, (2014). *The mature student's study guide; essential skills for those*, p 145.)