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Academic Skills (LCLM4001_LON)

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Reflective report

The report consists all my reflections in regards to first term of academic skills module with great lecturer Dr Thomas Adayemi.

I'll be reflecting on modules/topics like:

- Time management
- Note-taking
- Research skills and Harvard referencing
- Academic and paragraph writing
- Paraphrasing
- Summarizing
- Reflecting and report writing

And finally Critical thinking.

All the above modules have thought me massively and helped me to see the significance for the future development and progress in academic community.

Starting from the basics like: communication, writing, time management and note-taking where I have learned how to express ideas to words and writing, how to organize and schedule time effectively to balance number of different tasks to efficiently record important information from texts, readings and lectures.

To more complex and relevant to me personally like: research skills, reading comprehension, critical thinking and problem solving.

From the beginning of term, I and many of my colleagues have been very shy, very much lacking confidence in speaking out loud, talking to each other or especially working in groups but all that has changed quite quickly. Beginnings were difficult.

It was also very challenging to me personally as I'm not so socializing person.

It's been funny on the other hand when I'm thinking about it right now, when working in groups we couldn't even come up with anything relevant information to completed assignment as none of us wanted to speak to another, waiting for any other person to start.

All the classroom group tasks and assignments have really helped me to break the ice, opened up and get what is needed to set my mind for what is coming next and in the future classes.

The journey begins now, that's what I said to myself.

To describe my experiences, I would have to start with `Referencing` module, which probably has been the most refreshing and confusing to me at the time.

Not as much having problems with searching for factual data/resources to be used as

true background for the academic writing; this was an easy part, but just couldn't get used to different referencing type that is Harvard referencing style.

In my time back around 25 years ago when I was a full-time student of Chemistry, all referencing has been marked with numbers corresponding to the reference list at the end of paper.

Well, times has changed and I see the logic behind this style. So far didn't have much time to get use to it yet as this is the first report that I have written for a long time.

I found a text on internet which I'm going to quote but it's not corresponding to any specific person who said that, it kind of concludes importance of Harvard referencing:

"Good referencing is an important academic skill. It demonstrates that you have engaged with existing research and that your work is built on a solid foundation of knowledge."

In-text citations had been little less problematic and much easily understandable than Harvard referencing style especially when Dr Adayemi in-depth explanation and motivation to keep practicing.

Among many activities to practice in class and quizzes I think we did well, discussions and examples gave me a bigger picture on how it works and how to use it.

I have nearly forgotten about videos that we watched on YouTube on every subject.

From all the modules that I studied so far, I must say that `Critical thinking` was the most interesting module to me.

Seems It's in my nature to question everything and find my ways to find truth and fact behind any information.

It's very important to separate facts, from opinions and other information that can be proven untrue. This class thought me and gave me a perspective on how to find trustable places for information, vision that sources for public news, newspapers can be very often untrustworthy, manipulated, fake and not objective and cannot be used as a source of actual information.

I love the quote by legendary physicist Richard Feynman: "You are the easiest person to fool." Who famously warned that when it comes to thinking, not fooling yourself should be at the top of your mind.

I'm happy in overall from all the modules having in mind that some of them I liked more than the others, I'm not so proud of myself when it comes to the second in class quiz.

I simply had not enough time to prepare myself, work consumed all my time throughout that week. This also comes back to the module about time management, where I should have had think of it more and find an hour here and there to prepare myself to the quiz.

At this stage of learning I must say my self-development reached a higher level, I see the difference in my way of thinking, wider perspective to information given, watched or read.

In many ways I'm reflecting on some modules on daily basis now.

Definitely, as I have indicated previously in regards to my preferred module, I feel the strongest. I know now where to find now reliable information and how to verify the sources.

I'm not sure if there could be any improvements to this module as it's clear and simple enough.

A little more examples and discussions would make it even more interesting but this is only my personal opinion.

In conclusion, first term was very interesting, I have had my doubts at the beginning but throughout it was eyes opening on many subjects, assisting in the realization and implementation of various aspects from each module into everyday life.

There are not many things that I would change but having more opinions and explanations by the lecturer would have a better impact on the class and it would help many class mates to picture and improve on perspective and meaning of the modules.

By saying this, not many class mates speak English very well, this would only make them understand the classes better.

Overall, it's been great, 09 out of 10.

Thank you, Dr Adayemi.

Reference:

26 Powerful Critical Thinking Quotes

by [Chris Meyer](#) - <https://themindcollection.com/critical-thinking-quotes/>