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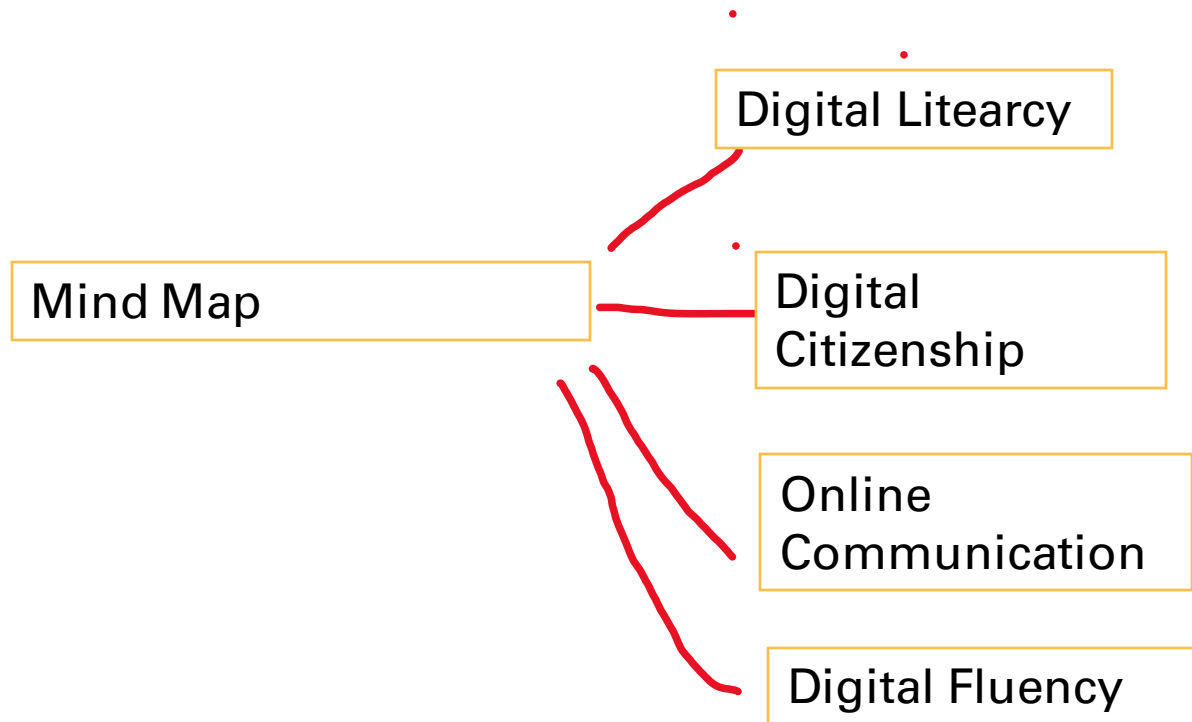
♦ Introduction



- ♦ The digital era has brought about significant changes in the way we learn and acquire knowledge. With the widespread availability of technology and digital resources, learners have access to a vast array of learning materials and tools that enable them to learn at their own pace and convenience.
- ♦ According to a report by the UK Department for Education (2017), digital technology can enhance learning experiences by providing learners with opportunities for active and collaborative learning, personalized feedback, and immersive learning environments. Digital tools such as online platforms, virtual and augmented reality, and mobile applications can also support self directed and lifelong learning.
- ♦ However. The shift towards digital learning also poses challenges such as the digital divide and the need for digital literacy skills. The same report highlighted the importance of ensuring equal access to digital resources and supporting learners in developing the skills needed to effectively navigate and utilize digital tools.
- ♦ In conclusion, the digital era presents both opportunities and challenges for learning, and it is essential to leverage the benefits of digital technology while addressing the challenges to ensure that learners can access quality education and acquire the digital skills needed for success in the digital era.

- **Written Summary**

- Preparing for higher education is a crucial step in ensuring academic and career success. It involves various activities such as academic planning, career exploration, financial planning and personal development. According to the textbook *How to Succeed at University* by Bob Smale and Julie Fowlie, preparing for higher education requires a proactive approach which involves developing essential skills such as time management, critical thinking, and effective communication.
- One important aspect of preparing for higher education is career exploration. It is essential to identify the skills, interests, and values that align with potential careers. A study by the National Centre for Education Statistics found that students who engage in career experiences are more likely to persist in their studies and succeed academically. Additionally, students who participate in internships, volunteer work, or other work-based learning experiences have a higher likelihood of securing employment upon graduation.
- Financial planning is another critical part of preparing for higher education. With the rising cost of tuition, it is important to develop a financial plan that takes into account the costs of tuition, textbooks, and living expenses. Scholarships, grants, and student loans are available to help cover the cost of higher education, and it is essential to research and apply for these resources in a timely manner. Personal development is also crucial in preparing for higher education. Developing strong study habits, stress management techniques, and social skills can help students succeed both academically and socially. Additionally, developing a growth mindset and a sense of resilience can help students navigate the challenges of higher education.
- In conclusion, preparing for higher education is a multifaceted process that involves academic planning, career exploration, financial planning, and personal development. It requires a proactive approach and the development of essential skills such as time management, critical thinking, and effective communication. By engaging in career exploration, financial planning, and personal development, students can position themselves for academic and career success.



- **BECOMING A DIGITAL LEARNER**

- Digital literacy: Developing skills to use digital tools effectively
- Basic computer skills
- Information literacy
- Media literacy
- Technological proficiency
- Online research skills
- Digital citizenship Understanding the ethical and responsible use of technology
- Online safety and security
- Cyberbullying and digital harassment
- Intellectual property rights
- Netiquette
- Digital footprints
- Online Communication: Developing skills to communicate effectively in digital environments
- Email and messaging
- Video conferencing
- Social media
- Online collaboration
- Presentation skills
- Digital Fluency: Using technology seamlessly to achieve goals
- Comfort with digital tools
- Ability to learn new technologies quickly
- Integration of digital tools into daily life
- Adaptive and innovative use of technology
- Ability to troubleshoot problems
- All these themes are interconnected and contribute to preparing individuals to work in their chosen disciplines. For example, digital literacy is important for individuals in the field of digital marketing as they require advanced digital skills to analyze data, create digital content and develop new strategies. Similarly, digital citizenship skills are important for individuals in the field of journalism who work with digital content and engage with online communities, while online communication skills are crucial for individuals in the field of public relations.

- ♦ <https://youtu.be/xiDQoFPYnOc>

- Reflection

- Starting university has been an exciting yet challenging experience for me. The transition to online learning due to pandemic had been difficult, as I have had to adapt to a new mode of learning and overcome technical issues. At first, I found it overwhelming to navigate the virtual learning environment and use the different resources available.
- However, with the help of line tutorials and support from my lecturers, I have been able to get to grips with the online platform and understand how to use the different resources available.
- Writing my first assignment has also been a steep learning curve. I found it challenging to understand the learning writing style and the importance of referencing, However, by attending online workshops and using the university's resources, I have been able to improve my academic writing skills and again a better understanding of the expectations of university-level assignments.
- My experience of starting university and online learning has taught me the importance of adaptability and resilience. It has also highlighted the value of seeking support and guidance from the university's resources, such as online tutorials, workshops, and academic support services. These resources have helped me to overcome the challenges of online learning and improve me academic skills.
- Moving forward, I plan to continue to make use of the university's resources and attend workshops to enhance my academic skills. I also plan to ensure I can meet the demands of university-level assignments. Additionally, I will seek out opportunities to engage with other students and build a support network to enhance my university experience.
- In conclusion, my experience of starting university, getting to grips with online learning and resources, and the process of writing my first assignment has been a challenging yet rewarding experience, and seeking support. Moving forward, I will continue to develop these skills to enhance my academic performance and overall university experience.

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- ♦ Reflection:

- ♦ Jowett, A., Peel, E., & Shaw, R. L. (2012). Online interviewing in psychology: Reflections on the process. *Qualitative Research in Psychology*, 9(4), 322-333. doi: 10.1080/14780887.2012.712207
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