

REFLECTION REPORT

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Introduction

In this report I will be reflecting on a new skill that I have learnt while studying in university using the Gibbs reflective cycle (1988). This framework allows me to reflect on my experiences, allowing me to learn from them.

Description

I learnt a new skill which is paraphrasing and referencing. I have learnt how to paraphrase and reference at university in my lectures. I needed to learn this skill to enable me to complete my assignments/reports correctly. My classmates were all present along with my tutors in our online learning class and this is where we were taught how to correctly paraphrase and reference our work. We all took notes and participated in the learning by asking questions to enable us to understand it more. I attended classes to learn the correct way to paraphrase and reference and this has helped me to understand what paraphrasing and referencing means along with in text citations and how to type a reference list.

Feelings

At the beginning of class I was calm as I had previously done referencing in college, however after starting the session on how to paraphrase and reference I started feeling nervous as this was hugely different from what I had done previously. During the class I wrote down as many notes as I could to help me with my work, but I still felt like it was too complicated. As the session continued, I felt like I had an idea on how to paraphrase and reference but would need more help. I think that my classmates were in the same position as me, feeling nervous and slightly scared wondering if we would be able to learn this new skill. I feel happy now that I have learnt this new skill which enables me to complete my assignments and reports. I now feel relaxed when it comes to paraphrasing and referencing, however I would not say I am completely confident.

Evaluation

When I first started paraphrasing and referencing, it was not completely correct. Even though I had attended my lecture on how to do this and I had taken down many notes to help me, I was making mistakes. I was adding quotation marks to paragraphs that I had paraphrased and forgetting to make notes of references along the way. I then decided to watch the online lecture again to have a better understanding of the process and wrote down step by step notes and instructions on how to paraphrase and reference. I believe this helped me understand it much better and I felt like I could do this. After completing my first report draft, I asked my tutor for feedback and found that the referencing list needed to be amended and how this can be done and later after asking another tutor about paraphrasing I finally understood when and where quotation marks need to be added and how paraphrased text needs to be.

Analysis

I believe that my first-time doing paraphrasing and referencing did not go well as I was extremely nervous and could not understand the process on how to do this. I feel that only one online class was not enough for me to learn how to do this as I needed to watch the lecture recording again to help me get a better understanding. I prefer to learn face to face in class rather than online and I think this may have affected my learning of this skill. According to Ruby (2017) if people know what type of learner they are or how they prefer to learn, it can be beneficial for them to find ways to learn using those methods as it will help them to become effective learners. I started feeling better about the situation after I watched the online class again and made more in-depth notes on the do's and don'ts of paraphrasing and referencing. Asking my tutors for advice also helped the situation.

Conclusion

To improve my skills in the future I will have to obtain feedback from my tutors for my assignments/reports as this will show me how well I am doing and what needs improving. I believe I will also need to watch/read more about paraphrasing and referencing and compare it to how I am currently doing it. AEUK (2022) state that paraphrasing needs a lot of practice before you become confident in doing it. They also state that there are 4 key stages in paraphrasing and to improve your skill you should use some tools such as google synonyms and collocations which can provide you with definitions and alternative words to master these stages (AEUK, 2022). I believe that I will need to continue to practise this skill no matter how well I am at doing it. I can always continue to learn and grow my skill. I have learnt from this situation that I require more time when learning new skills if it is being taught online and to help me learn faster, I will need to take down more notes, ask questions about things that I am unsure of and request additional help/time from my tutors. I realise now that I should have asked my tutor for a one-to-one session to get a better understanding of the skill and asked my classmates how they were doing it.

Action Plan

My action plan to improve my skill will be to create some flashcards as these are a fantastic way to familiarise myself with the key pieces of information that I need to know. I can use them at any time to help with my work and even quiz myself. Flashcards can be created for learning any new skill or information. I will also break all the information that I have into groups, this will stop me from getting overwhelmed with all the information and easier for me to take it all in and retain it. Watkins, Carnell, and Lodge (2007) state that effective learners are people who have gained knowledge on how to review and monitor how their learning is going. I will take in feedback from my tutors and try my best to develop on the areas that need improvement. This will allow me to see my progress and enable me to become more effective in my learning.

Personal Reflection Presentation

https://www.canva.com/design/DAFegP2115c/7COra4shSchL6TNcAglwbw/view?utm_content=DAFegP2115c&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=recording_view

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