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Module name/code: Academic Skills – LCLM4001

Task 3: Reflective Report 1000 Words.

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Introduction

The purpose of this report is to elaborate on what I have learned about academic skills in the last 10 weeks in the classroom environment.

I have learned academic skills, critical thinking, and how to reference a work, citation, and I also picked up some time management techniques.

Through engaging in classroom activities and completing Tasks 1 and 2, I was able to find my strengths and weaknesses and ways I could improve these aspects.

This report intends to showcase my learning journey, highlighting how the module has contributed to both my academic development and personal development as a student.

Description of Experiences

During the academic skills module, I took part in the classroom discussions and group activity, which played a huge role in fitting back into the classroom environment after almost a 20-year gap in higher education. The way the module is split makes it easy to learn and take on board what is being taught. While university learning and school learning differ significantly, I find myself enjoying the academic style of writing, citing, and acknowledging the original authors, especially when incorporating their quotes into my writing through the reference list.

There have been many challenges, especially when working full-time and studying at the same time. The work-life and education balance is vital, while I enjoy learning at the university, I find it difficult to juggle all three aspects of life. The way I am currently trying to manage all this is via a time management method, which is working to some extent. As the first term of the module comes to an end, I look back on the past ten weeks and I can say that I have learnt a lot from the lecturer and using the university online library, which has lots of information and a collection of books and articles.

Analysis and Personal Reflection

This Academic module has been an eye-opener and a revealing one, with fresh knowledge and awareness that have changed my perspectives on higher education. It also includes “applying” the theoretical knowledge, especially considering (in class examples, real-life examples, and case studies) that we have studied in class.

This practical way of studying in class made my studies concrete and gave more value and meaning since I could relate them to useful work outside class. Consistent with Kolb’s (1984) experiential learning theory, I found that reflecting on experiences is critical for transformative learning.

This demonstrates the significance of connecting instruction to real-world phenomena in achieving the most compelling learning. My critical thinking has grown as well, too. However, early in the course, I tended to take readings at face value and failed to critically analyse or challenge the concepts.

As I progressed through the module, I developed the ability to think and let my thinking run wild, to defy conventional wisdom, and to compare one theory to another. Not only has this changed my way of thinking, but it has also changed my confidence in even stating and proving my own opinion.

Now I feel I have the tools to participate in academic conversations, add my two cents to the debate, and look at controversial issues from various sides.

One of my major strengths is my self-motivation. I committed myself to doing all the sessions, reading each week, and working each time I couldn't get something to work. This has been a proactive stance, which has enabled me to get a jump on the latest and take full advantage of what is out there.

I have tried my best to be able to work with other students because I found that, in my opinion, learning is better when you’re having a conversation. Cooperation deepened and broadened my understanding, as the exchange and critique of ideas and interpretations generated insights neither I nor my classmates had.

I feel that, professionally, the written assignment has helped me become a better student. It has helped me to become more contemplative of myself in my learning. According to Moon (2004), it is the reflection process that enables learners to make sense of events and develop a more autonomous and thoughtful approach to learning.

I have changed my way of thinking about what I have studied from learning as something to be transformed to something that needs to reflect how to apply or utilise such knowledge in different future contexts in either academia or my professional life.

This reflective practice has informed much of the way that I approach learning and causes me to ask profound questions about my expertise, whilst at the same time impelling me to go further.

In summary, this module was tough but worthwhile. I know now that for a better understanding of the material, students enjoyed a greater understanding of the subject matter (content mastery), critical thinking, and higher-level thinking. I've learned better teamwork and critical thinking skills, and I know more about my own personal best learning strategies.

I feel a little more prepared for the next part of the course and more confident in my abilities moving forward as a student. I'm looking forward to what I must do and turning all I have learned into something that makes a difference.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Academic Skills module has enabled me to learn a range of new skills, and I feel that I am now a better student, from enhancing my academic writing and learning to being more organised with time management, through to developing critical reading and independent learning skills. I just don't want to stop using them after I graduate, and I have learned how to manage my time and write better essays. They are lessons I've learned, and they have served me well in my studies. The module has illustrated what not to do and what needs to be improved upon, particularly in terms of managing time and better appreciating my strengths (things like writing and thinking analytically). I think it has been good for me because it has given me more motivation to face university work with more confidence and ease. The good, the bad, and all the in-between still dictate how I study. I am now a little more ready for the next level, another step.

Reference List:

Kolb, D. A. (1984). *Experiential learning: Experience as the source of learning and development*. Prentice Hall

Moon, J. (2004). *A handbook of reflective and experiential learning: Theory and practice*. RoutledgeFalmer.