

ACS Report

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1. Introduction

Reflection means thinking about your past experiences to understand what went well and what could be better (Moon, 2004). It helps university students learn more deeply by noticing their strengths and weaknesses (Schon, 1983). In this report, I will reflect on the academic skills that I learned in this module such as paraphrasing, note taking and critical reading. These skills helped me understand how to use sources properly and think more clearly when writing. I will describe the tasks and lessons that helped me develop these skills, explain what I found easy or difficult, and discuss how I can continue to improve in the future.

2. Description of Experiences

One of the main skills we learned was paraphrasing, which we focused on in Week 5. Paraphrasing means rewriting someone else's ideas in your own words. It is important because it shows that you understand what you read and helps you avoid plagiarism. In class, we practised rewriting short texts and sharing our versions with each other. At first, I found it hard to change the structure and keep the meaning the same. Group feedback helped me see new ways to improve my writing.

Another important skill was critical reading, which we practised especially in Week 4. This skill means thinking carefully about what you read and judging how strong the writer's arguments are. In one activity, we looked at two short articles and picked out the main points and evidence. This helped me see how to use better sources in my work and made me question the information more. Before this, I would just read quickly without thinking too much. Now I take more time and ask questions while I read.

3. Personal Reflection

3.1 Evaluation

One task that helped me a lot was the critical reading activity in Week 4. We were given two texts and asked to find the writer's argument and the evidence they used. I enjoyed this task because it helped me understand what to look for in a text. I started to notice when arguments were weak or biased. This gave me more confidence when choosing sources for my own writing.

On the other hand, paraphrasing in Week 5 was difficult for me. We had to rewrite a paragraph from a text, but my version was too close to the original. I thought I was changing enough, but the feedback said it was still too similar. I realised I didn't fully understand the text before trying to reword it. Even though we had a lot of them, I still felt unsure about my paraphrasing. I needed more practice and a better strategy.

3.2 Analysis

I believe I did well in critical reading because we had clear activities and time to practise. The class in Week 4 helped me understand what questions to ask when reading. For example, I started asking things like "What is the writer trying to say?" or "Does this evidence make sense?" This made me a more active reader. Wallace and Wray (2016) say that students read better when they think about the writer's purpose and the strength of their arguments. I agree with this, because now I do not just read for information, I think more about what I am reading and how I can use it in my writing.

However, paraphrasing was harder for me. Brown (2018) explains that many students struggle with paraphrasing because they are not confident in changing sentence structure. That is what happened to me in Week 5. I often just changed a few words and

did not fully rewrite the idea. I also worried that if I changed too much, I might change the meaning. I learned that to paraphrase well, I need to really understand the text first. Only then can I explain it in my own way.

One thing that helped was reading the paragraph, then trying to write it in my own words without looking. This showed me if I really understood it. I also started using online sites like Quill Bot to learn new ways of paraphrasing. I need more time and practice with this skill, especially with longer and harder texts. I also plan to ask for more feedback from classmates and tutors so I can see how to improve.

These experiences showed me where I am strong and where I still need work. I feel confident now when reading and analysing texts, but I still want to become better at rewriting ideas clearly and correctly. In future tasks, I will give myself more time to paraphrase and use different strategies. I also plan to ask my lecturer for extra help.

4. Conclusion

This report has helped me reflect on two key skills: critical reading and paraphrasing. I learned that I am improving at reading academic texts and understanding arguments, which helps me write better when I do my work in class. Paraphrasing is still something I find difficult, but I now know what steps I need to take to improve. The feedback, class tasks, and practice in this module helped me learn more about how to study at university level. I feel more confident in my academic skills, and I now have a plan for how to keep improving in the future.

5. References

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