2312265
ECEY4008

Academic Skills

Research

According to Hampshire College, research is “a process of systematic inquiry that entails collection of data; documentation of critical information; and analysis and interpretation of data/information” **(*What is research? Hampshire College)*.**

Research before an assignment is completed is vital to know what information you need to include in your work. Without researching, the information you may include in your assignment could be inaccurate. In The Study Skills Handbook by Stella Cottrell, she talks about the importance of researching and how it develops skill. Some short examples from her book are that researching allows you to gather your own selection of information, you can find out more in-depth information and it allows you to build on the research you have already made. **Cottrell, S. (2019)**
In a book named ‘Success In Academic Writing’ by Trevor Day, he writes about how being strategic in your research will allow you to make sense of the information that is available to you and how it relates to the task in a specific way. **Day, T. (2018)**

Critical Thinking

In a web page named Skills You Need, it states “Critical thinking is the ability to think clearly and rationally, understanding the logical connection between ideas.” **(Skills You Need, 2011).**

Critical thinking whilst undertaking a degree is important as it allows you to think critically and objectively about an issue and create an argument. It tells us this in the book named ‘Critical thinking skills for education students. **(Eales-Reynolds, L.-J. (2009)**
Throughout my degree, I will use critical thinking a lot when it comes to working within teams to complete group assignments. This is to ensure that research which is completed for a group assignment is done to the best standard.

Critical thinking can be developed in many ways. This is through both reading and writing. Firstly, you need to make sure that the article that you have found is relevant and has been written by someone who has an established reputation.

Referencing

According to Newcastle University, “referencing is how you acknowledge the source of information you have used (referred to) in your work”. **‘*Referencing’,* Newcastle University.**

Referencing is important throughout a degree to avoid plagiarism from happening. In the handheld guide Cite Them Right by Richard Pears and Graham Shields, it tells us that we should reference to show the lecturer what you have read, to establish the credibility of your ideas and argument and to show that you have spent time carefully finding and reading material to back up your views and opinions. **Pears, R. (2022)**
The type of referencing that I will be using throughout my degree is Harvard. I am using Harvard s it is the most common referencing style for UK based universities. According to a website called Scribbr. **Jack Caulfield. 2020 (November 2022). *Scribbr.***

CONCLUSION

To conclude, I have developed a good understanding of effective research and referencing skills. I have also learnt that it is important to develop good critical thinking skills. I am looking forward to developing research, critical thinking and referencing further throughout my degree.

References

- Hampshire College. *What is Research*? Available at: https://www.hampshire.edu/what-research (Accessed: 14th September 2023)
- Cottrell, S. (2019) *The Study Skills Handbook*. 5th Ed. London. Bloomsbury
- Day, T. (2018) *Success in academic writing* . Second edition. Basingstoke, Hampshire :, Palgrave Macmillan.
- Skills You Need. https://www.skillsyouneed.com/learn/critical-thinking.html (Accessed: 14th September 2023)
- (Eales-Reynolds, L.-J. (2009) Critical thinking skills for education students . Second edition. London :, Sage Publications. ELH.)
- Referencing. Newcastle University. https://www.ncl.ac.uk/academic-skills-kit/good-academic-practice/referencing/#:~:text=What%20is%20referencing%3F,your%20own%20ideas%20and%20arguments. (Accessed: 16th September 2023)
- Pears, R. (2022) Cite them right : the essential referencing guide . 12th edition. New York :, Bloomsbury Academic.
- Caulfield T. 2020 (November 2022). *Scribbr*. Available at: https://www.scribbr.co.uk/referencing/harvard-style/#:~:text=Harvard%20is%20the%20most%20common,given%20in%20a%20reference%20list. (Accessed: 16th September 2023)
- Picture - https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2020/03/02/teaching-students-think-critically-opinion