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Reflective report

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The reason I'm writing this reflective report is to evaluate my development in the following areas. These are some of the few things that stood out to me when studying this module, all having different reasons for doing so. However, one thing that they all have in common is that my perspective, for better or worse, has changed compared to my initial view. To write this reflective report, we were told to follow one of the reflective models that we studied in class, however, I have made my own reflective model inspired by Gibbs reflective cycle, which I applied in this report.

Referencing is a really important part of academic writing as not only it helps with acknowledging and giving credit to its original source, but it also helps to avoid plagiarism. Referencing was always perceived by students as looking for a needle in a haystack instead of an important part of the haystack itself, Neville, C (2016, pp. 1)

I learned how to reference properly through this module. Learning to reference properly has helped me both in academic writing and in personal life. For example, it has helped me to back up my arguments with clear citations.

Initially when I was learning about referencing, I thought that it was tedious and unnecessary. There are many ways to reference a text. It was mind blowing to learn how to reference as not only it felt tedious but time consuming.

There's this one activity that I did in class as a group which stood out to me, we had a book in front of us that we had to find all the information necessary to do a proper referencing and during that activity, I made a mistake on finding the year of publication. Although I had made a mistake, it helped me learn why referencing is something I need to learn and understand properly.

I can see myself using this new skill that I have learned in my future work to show my clear understanding of topics and back up my arguments without accidentally plagiarizing someone else's work.

Summarizing is a topic that I already knew so when I first saw that it was on the module, I was a little bit disappointed because I thought a lesson on summarizing would be a waste of time. However, it wasn't as boring or a waste of time as I had initially assumed, in fact, it was quite an

intriguing topic. Academic writing needs you to include literature sources into your work to demonstrate the depth of your reading, knowledge, comprehension, and critical thinking, unknown author (2024).

I used to think that summarizing isn't an important or necessary skill that I needed to learn at university as it's something I do in my daily life all the time, as it can be something as simple as summarizing my favorite show or movie to someone. I used to underestimate the mental effort required to effectively condense large amounts of information. Initially, my approach was to simply rephrase or shorten the content, which often resulted in summaries that omitted the main meaning.

Over the course of this module, I discovered that summarizing requires more than just lowering word count; it also entails thoroughly evaluating and comprehending the content to extract significant arguments, topics, and concepts. I realized that an effective summary needs a lot of reading and analytical thought to understand which information is most important while omitting less relevant elements.

Learning how to summarize properly is not only helping me in academic life but also in my personal life. For example, it has helped me coherently summarize the topics we learned in class to classmates that were absent, and it has also helped me revise at home, even right now, I'm summarizing my thoughts and experience about this module. This has made me understand the true value of summarizing.

I plan on using everything I learned about summarizing in this report, all of my future reports or assignments and of course in my personal life and in the workplace. This skill is something that will stay with me as I learn more and will help me further my knowledge as time goes on. Research skills are vital to learn in fields like academic places such as university. It is extremely easy to find misinformation online as anyone can post anything on social media and it's easy to believe the misinformation

At first, I thought my research skills were good enough, but I was so wrong, I had thought that Wikipedia was a credible source, and I couldn't have been further from the truth. This made me

understand the areas that I need to focus on to work on in order to further increase my knowledge.

The thing I struggled with the most was finding an actual credible source. Right now, I mainly use Google Scholar, it's something that I learned about in class. This has helped me understand that i can't just accept things at face value and need to be more skeptical and do my own research

I believe out of all the knowledge I have gained during these 10 weeks, research skills is what I find the most useful. I can use it not only to fact check anything I see on social media, I can also use it in my future academic projects.

In conclusion, throughout my 10 weeks of studying this module, it has helped me understand my weaknesses and strengths in summarizing, research skills and referencing skills. My knowledge has increased significantly in certain topics, especially on the ones mentioned above. During this process, I gained a better understanding of proper research procedures, such as selecting reputable and credible sources and obtaining useful information. In addition, I've increased my ability to summarize complicated topics precisely, ensuring that my writing is clear and coherent.

Referencing has been another important area of development for me, as I've learned how important it is to properly cite sources, avoid plagiarism, and maintain academic integrity. While I've made tremendous improvement, I understand the need to improve my skills, especially in critically analyzing sources and summarizing more efficiently.

In the future, I plan on using these skills that I have gained or improved to write higher quality academic reports.

Reference list:

- Neville, C. (2016) *The complete guide to referencing and avoiding plagiarism*. Available at:
https://books.google.co.uk/books?hl=en&lr=&id=MskvEAAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PP1&dq=referencing&ots=kBcw5FYkx5&sig=eENArzCvmaRsLhQ3LDF9gvRyLxl&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q=referencing&f=false (Accessed: 17 December 2024)
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