

1. Introduction

This report is about my experience during my studies in Academic Skills. In this report I will be writing about my strengths, areas for improvement for the module, the impact of the module on my personal and academic development and thanking the teacher for teaching us with a smile on their face.

Prior to the module, I already had some knowledge of academic skills such as Note-taking and understanding assignments, academic writing & paragraph writing, paraphrasing, and summarising from my previous studies at college. However, the way Mr Abdullah was explaining and teaching broadened my understanding of those subjects/skills. An example of this is when he talked about note taking. I was using different methods, but I didn't know their names and function. Such as the Cornell method which makes your paper into three areas: the questions box, the key idea/notes box and the summary. As Grace talks about how 'Cornell Method has been helping to improve academic performance' by making it 'more active, inquiring and revision-friendly, without radically changing how they take notes' this makes the students more involved/focused with their work.

2. Description of Experiences:

A key moment that happened which had a significant impact on my learning was when Abdulla Sodiq explained something () and after some minutes, he appointed someone to write the answer to a similar question on the board. This greatly impacted me because it's something different to the original studies where students listen and teachers speak, and it makes us students think that we are involved by physical practice which personally is more memorable and interesting than (active learning academic skills) only using theoretical understanding. This way of teaching makes us want to develop and understand everything it's mentioned and it improves our memorization and adaptability skills. As Settles (Page 4) said, active learning system is that it 'eagerly develops and tests new hypotheses' and it's similar to the way a scientist would 'design a series of experiments to help him or her draw conclusions as efficiently as possible' this represents how a person would think when using active learning in their lessons. This would also make it harder for the student to forget because that activity becomes part of their learning and understanding.

Another pleasant experience I had was that during all of the modules he was friendly and talkative, which made it easier for me to talk to him and ask for help, and always coming in with a positive atmosphere which made it even easier to approach.

3. Analysis and Personal Reflection

Throughout the module everything went well and smoothly with close to no issues, Abdulla Sodiq would be explaining and giving examples and we as students would listen, take notes and ask questions. However, the one place I have a critical issue is that sometimes the lessons/information that we are supposed to learn go too fast and we are unable to keep up with the sessions/teaching. An example of this would be during week 2 and 3 where we learned about Notetaking and Understanding assignments and Research skills & Harvard Referencing. I feel this way because we would finish one week's work in two hours and then move on into the next week or continue that topic but in a different direction or more Indepth.

In the module my understanding of note-taking and understanding assignments, academic writing & paragraph writing, paraphrasing, and research skills & Harvard referencing have been expanded. An example of this would be the way of referencing this is because I thought that you just copy the link of where you find the information and done but during the time of the lesson, I realised that there is a difference of how you reference the writer/author and using the link only. The new way or referencing that I learned

The ways to improve the module in my opinion is to make the lessons more inclusive and simplify the context so that everyone understands and develop much easier and more efficient. Another way to improve the module would be to use a game at the end of lessons such as Kahoot to make students replay the information and remember it for much longer. Another way to improve the course would be to change the time that class start during the morning this is because some students would be waiting outside of the university until 8:30am because lessons start at 9am so I suggest we change the start to 9:30 which would make students arrive when the university is open and the students would be able to grab a coffee or even something to eat before class and if this change is done it could improve the concentration in classes. The final improvement I would make to the module would be to check the laptops, monitors and electric screens before the lesson so that there are no technical issues so that the lesson can continue.

4. Conclusion

In conclusion the overall module was enjoyable, educational and simple to understand and because of the module's structure, I was able to develop my understanding of Academic Skills. There is some room for improvement but even if they do not make any changes to the content all of the students in the module will pass. The final thought I want to say is to thank Mr Sodiq for his efforts in teaching us and coming with a smile every Saturday when teaching us.

Referencing:

Active learning:

https://librarysearch.uwtsd.ac.uk/view/action/uresolver.do?operation=resolveService&package_service_id=12065867010002421&institutionId=2421&customerId=2415&VE=true

Phoebe Grace 2023: Note taking: Cornell Notes.

<https://video.alexanderstreet.com/watch/active-learning-cornell-notes>

