

Reflective essay

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First time in my life doing this such a think as getting myself enrolled in a University in a different country and trying something new. It was a weird experince for myself but i knowed if I'm giving up i will loose my opportunity of doing something in life.I was lucky I've had such a good teacher and class mates aswell that helped me going over my anxiety. Somehow they helped me gaining more trust on myself and be more confident.

In my first semester I've learned about various Academic and digital tools wich it was new for me.

Along my journey in the academic year (being my first time going to university in Wales) i have come to a point where critical thinking is not just about questioninginformations but about systematically analyzing, evaluating and gaining knowlodgement about it.

I've learned to assess the reliability of digital sources, opinions from the class mates, maybe they've view different and evaluating arguments by considering evidence, context, and bias.

This skill has helped me engage more deeply with academic texts, avoid misinformation, and construct well-supported arguments in essays and discussions

I have to use academic sources using the Harvard style, and submitting my work on online platform such as Microsoft Team and Google Docs.

I've learned how to do references sistem, how to use the online database aswell, I've learned about system management (LMS) , I've learned how to structure an essay, how to do a software presentation, everything was new for me, interested in learning to. One of the best feeling that I've had it was when i done the presentation in front of my class, it was a nice feeling.

Learning to use Microsoft PowerPoint was one of the easiest skill I've gain.

I did struggled to do my researching using the online library or the handbooks or to manage my references, but looking deeper into it, i did manage to do my homework, assignments in time and I'm really proud of myself.

There were multiple positive outcomes from this experince. First off all I've learned how to use the academic database and helped me to find credible sources.

Second, i did learned more about academic writing conventions, exactly about paraphrasing and how to do a reference.

Using digital tools as Zotero or Turnitin it did helped me whit my own work.

Using google docs it did helped me whit the real time editing.

Using Microsoft Teams helped me whit the virtual meetings. This enhanced my ability to work as team, this i called myself a new skill that I have learned about it.

In this semester i learned about managing my time by setting a deadline or using a digital calendar.

However the experience also highlighted some weaknesses. Because at the beginning i didn't know how to use the online database that

slowed my achievements, and I often relied heavily on trial-and-error methods.

Communication with peers was sometimes ineffective due to inconsistent online engagement and lack of clarity in messages. These issues underscored the importance of clear digital communication and the need for technical troubleshooting skills.

The first challenge I've faced was that I was unfamiliar with the academic convention and using digital tools, I'm struggling to use it but not as bad as I was in the beginning.

Support services such as library tutorials and academic writing workshops played a crucial role in addressing these gaps. These resources provided structured guidance on using referencing tools and understanding plagiarism.

Using an online platform so I can get in touch with my class mates also helped me to gain different perspectives and practical tips.

More and over, the experience highlighted the interconnectedness of academic and digital skills.

For instance conducting a literature review required both critical reading (an academic skill) and the ability to use online library, handbooks or databases efficiently (a digital skill).

Based on this experience I've been going through helped me to develop my knowledge in academic skills era and I did realise it is worthing to keep myself going or attend this course.

I can feel and see the progress I have done it to myself, I can see I've been doing well with my life since I've learned about those skills, and I'm sure there's more room left to improve myself.

I now appreciate the value of planning, collaboration, and continuous feedback in academic work.

Why the feedback does really matter to us?

For example when you are a student and you have to do an essay or your lecture give you home work.

After you have done your essay or your homework share it whit your class mates or you lecture, after they are viewing your Work, they will tell you where you have been writing something wrong, they will tell you where you have to improve yourself, or if you get along whit the academia writing.

timely feedback ensures that individuals can adapt their approaches, correct mistakes, and develop leadership and teamwork skills.

Critically, feedback is not just about external evaluation—it also encourages self reflection, a skill integral to lifelong learning. In the digital era, where learning is often self-directed and technology-mediated, knowing how to seek, interpret, and apply feedback has become more important than ever.

This reflection has also made me more aware of the broader implications of digital literacy not just in academia, but in professional life. The ability to communicate effectively, manage information, and adapt to new digital tools is essential in any career. Those skills can help me in my private life to.

Looking back on my first term it did show me that, academic and digital skills development is an ongoing process. While I have improved in areas such as digital collaboration and research skills, I need to refine my time management and referencing abilities. Recognizing these strengths and weaknesses allows me to implement targeted strategies for future growth.

For future to develop my academic and digital skills, I have outlined the following action plan:

1. **Attend Advanced Workshops:** I will participate in university-led sessions on advanced academic writing, referencing, and digital tools such as Excel and data analysis software.

2. **Utilize Feedback:** I will actively seek feedback from tutors and classmates, and use it to adjust my academic writing and digital communication strategies.
3. **Practice Regularly:** I will set aside time each week to practice using new digital tools, such as citation managers and collaborative platforms, to build confidence and proficiency.
4. **Engage in Peer Learning:** I will join study groups and forums where students share tips and resources, fostering a community of practice.
5. **Reflect Periodically:** I will maintain a learning journal to regularly reflect on my progress and identify areas for further development, and trying to learn from the mistakes I've made.
6. **Seek Mentorship:** I was thinking in planing to get in touch with a mentor, or a who can provide guidance on academic and digital skills development.

SMART Action Plan

Based on the insights gained from this reflective process, I have developed a **SMART goal** to guide my improvement in digital literacy and academic writing during the next academic term.

Specific

I aim to improve my **academic referencing skills**, particularly in using **Harvard referencing style correctly and consistently**, by actively engaging with referencing tools and academic writing support services.

Measurable

I will measure this improvement by achieving a **minimum of 90% accuracy in referencing** (as assessed by feedback from tutors or Turnitin similarity reports) in my next two written assignments.

Achievable

This goal is achievable because my university provides access to resources such as **Zotero, RefWorks, Turnitin**, academic skills workshops, and 1-on-1 tutorials. I have already become familiar with these tools, and with regular practice, I can enhance my precision.

Relevant

Accurate referencing is crucial for avoiding plagiarism and demonstrating academic integrity. Strengthening this skill aligns with my broader academic goals of improving my overall writing quality and earning higher marks in coursework.

Time-bound

I will achieve this goal by the **end of the next academic term (12 weeks)**. I will attend **at least two referencing workshops** and **submit two practice reference lists** to the academic support team for feedback within the first month.