

Student Name: Lucas Gabriel de Souza Senhorinho

Student Number: 2332170

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Reflective Report

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Lecturer name: Timothy Hopkins

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1 Introduction

The first module of this course was very challenging but helpful. Getting to the end now, I can look back and see how much I learned and how good it is being for myself.

This report is a reflective report, with the intention of provide evidence of my learning during the first module. Using and combining the skills I had contact with, such as academic writing (Fang, 2021) and research skills, I will write about my experience with three different topics; referencing skills, research skills and note taking.

The methodology I used to write this report was look back to my personal notes (See Appendix 1), books I had contact with in the past months, Power Points slides and websites that helped me to improve my knowledge in these topics.

To write this reflective report, I chose one of the reflective models that I had contact with in the classes. Gibb's Model (Gibbs, 1988) will help me to explain better how was my process of learning, separating the information into 6 stages and giving me the right structure to write about my experience. From all the models presented in the classroom, Gibbs was the one that I felt more comfortable using, because of the number of stages.

2 Referencing Skills

Description

I always had contact with referencing skills since the school in Brazil but the way I was taught here was slightly different. In week 3, I had my first experience with Harvard Referencing, which is what I'm using at this report.

Feelings

I felt comfortable with referencing. As I already knew and understood the concept of referencing, I only had to adapt my way to reference into the Harvard method (See Appendix 2) and that was not something too hard for me.

Evaluation

Learning more about referencing skills, especially the Harvard Referencing was very valuable and absolutely helpful. Reference rightly is very important to avoid plagiarism and help readers understand which ideas are your own and which are someone else's (The Open University, no date).

Analysis

The reason why I had a good experience with this topic was because of my background. Also have to cite the competence of Timothy (course lecture) that was always calm and willing to answer my specific questions about referencing.

Conclusion

Going deeper about referencing was an enriching experience. Learning and understanding the way to cite and use tools as websites (Cite them right, no date) to facilitate our experience with citation gave me a wide apprenticeship. I will definitely use these skills in my future academic life.

Action Plan

I will use the referencing skills that I learned to improve my knowledge as a student. From now, I will always be attentive to give the credits for the author and avoid plagiarism on my texts, reports, assessments.

3 Research Skills

Description

I would say that one of the most important skills that you can have is understand how to research properly and that's what I learned in week 3. Find the information in books, websites, articles, journals is a key point for a successful research.

Feelings

At first, I noticed that I didn't know much about research as I thought I knew, and that was scary and challenging. I felt a bit insecure in some circumstances about research, but I always were willing to understand the concepts that was being presented to me, in the class.

Evaluation

From the first time I had contact with this topic at the module I already notice how important that would be for me. Learning properly how to research was very valuable and helpful.

Analysis

The main problems I had was to deal with the language challenge. As I'm not a native English speaker, in some moments I felt confused and had to consult the translator or ask one of the friends. Also, research skills in academic purpose can be difficult because of the complexity of some texts, books, articles. But even with the complexity, was very enriching for my academic learning

Conclusion

Learning about research and how to find information was very good and important for me. This apprenticeship I will take and use for the rest of my academic career.

Action Plan

I will use all the skills and tools that I learned about research to make my next reports, exams and assessments.

4 Note Taking

Description

Having contact with note taking (at week 2 of this module) was nostalgic for me, in general. I was looking to a way of writing that I had no contact for few years, since I finished the school, in Brazil.

Feelings

Initially, I felt very challenged with it. As English its not my native language, in some specific situations, I had problems to recognize the meaning of the word, or even don't understand the pronunciation, challenges that I faced and made me improve my contact with the language. I also found difficult the concept of listening and writing at the same time, without lose yourself in the thoughts.

Evaluation

It was tricky to see the value at the time, but later seemed helpful.

Analysis

My problems were to do with language skills, and the fact I am thinking in one language and writing and speaking in another. I found it challenging at first but then useful as I practiced putting my thoughts into a specific method of writing and having contact with a piece of paper again (after few years away from it).

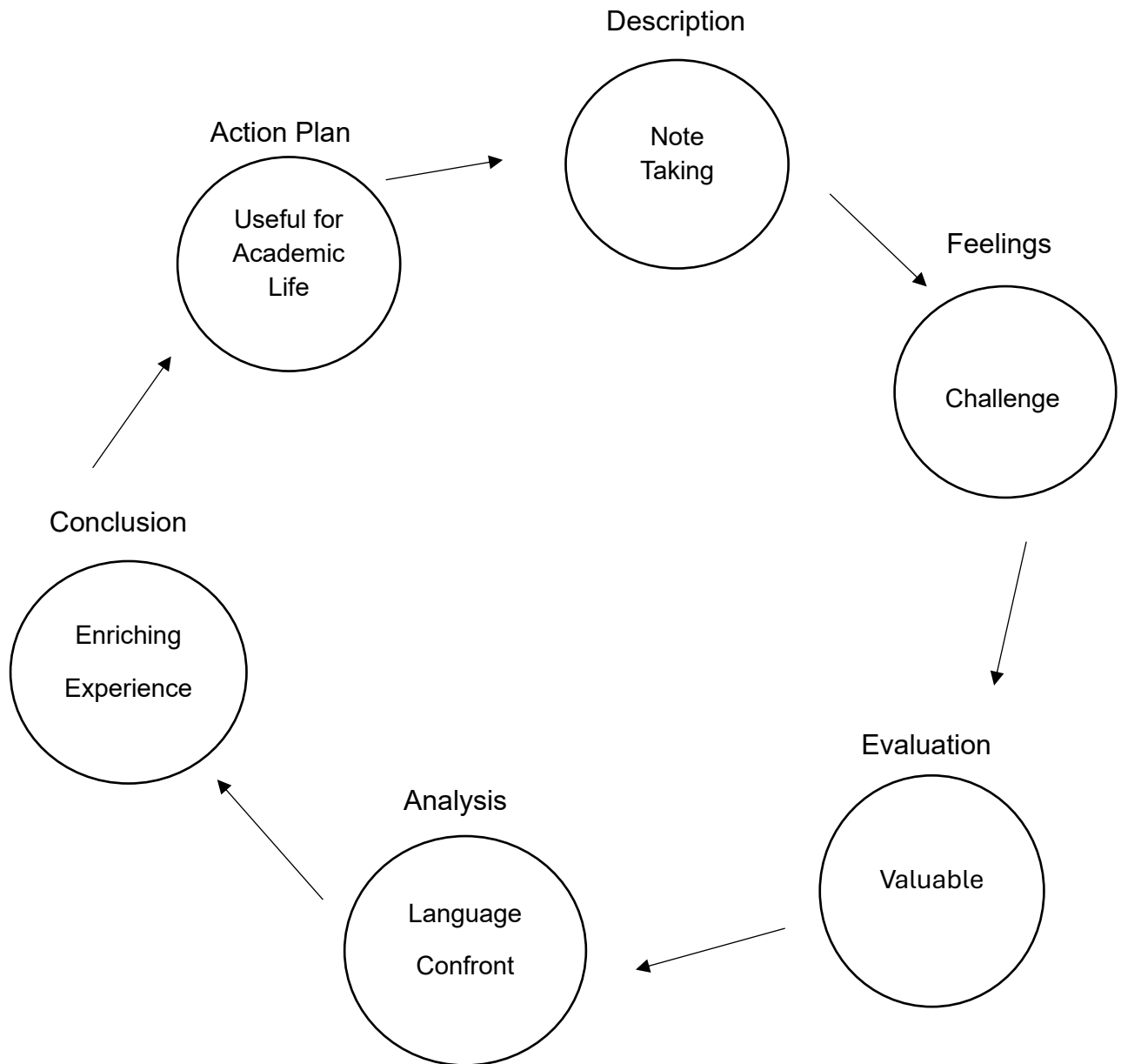
Conclusion

This was an enriching experience. The various different styles of note taking (diagrammatic, linear, tabular, ...) gave me a wide apprenticeship, that I can use in my future academic and professional life, and even in my personal life.

Action Plan

I will use these skills in my other study situations, such as use note taking as a tool to get ready for some future exam.

4.1 Example of Gibb's Model applied to Note Taking:



6 Conclusion

Throughout this first term I had contact with a lot of new information, but also information that I already knew. Furthermore, I have significantly developed my understanding and knowledge of the topics I was presented for.

In this report, I wrote about my experience with 3 specific topics and one model of report writing (Gibb's Model) but what I've learned along the way was much more. The knowledge of referencing Skills, research skills and note taking that I've gained will be present in my professional, academic and personal life. I will use the tools, tips and knowledge to always make the correct decisions in my workplace or university, such as future reports and assessments.

7 References

Fang, Z. (2021) *What is Academic Writing? (and Other Burning Questions About It)*. Available at: <https://www.routledge.com/blog/article/what-is-academic-writing-and-other-burning-questions-about-it> (Accessed: 20 August 2024).

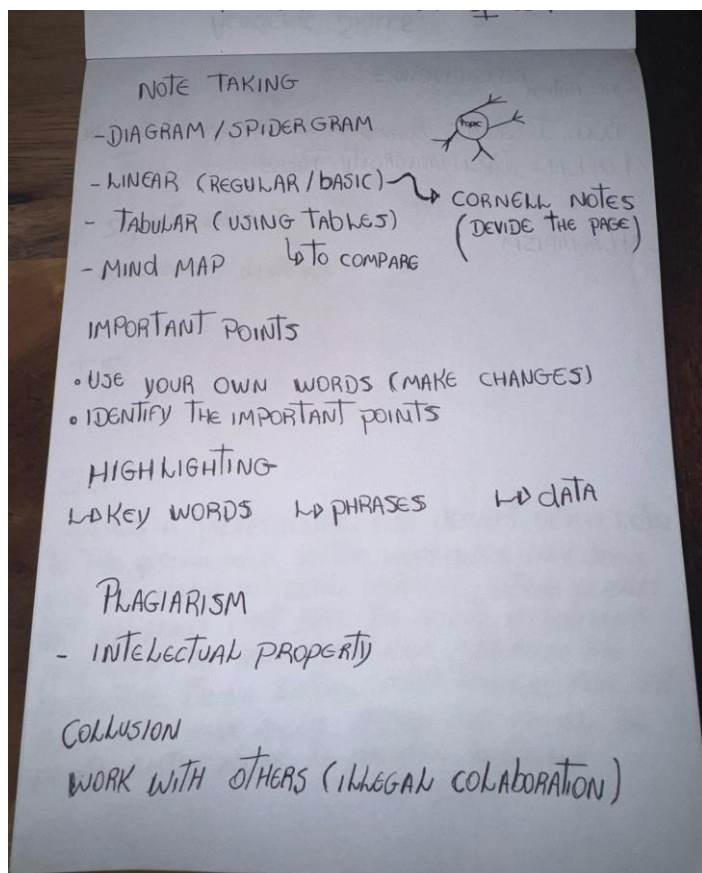
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Referencing and plagiarism (no date) Available at: <https://www5.open.ac.uk/library/help-and-support/referencing-and-plagiarism> (Accessed: 20 August 2024).

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8 Appendices

APPENDIX 1



APPENDIX 2

