

Reflective Report: Academic Skills Module

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Introduction

The purpose of this report is to reflect on my learning experiences throughout the Academic Skills module and to evaluate the impact of these experiences on my personal and academic development. During this module, I engaged in a variety of activities, including Task 1 and Task 2, classroom discussions, and group exercises, all of which contributed to improving my academic abilities. These experiences were significant because they allowed me to develop essential skills such as critical thinking, academic writing, research, and effective communication. Reflecting on these experiences has helped me identify both my strengths and areas for improvement, while highlighting the value of structured learning in enhancing my overall performance as a student.

Description of Experiences

Throughout the module, I participated in a series of tasks and classroom activities designed to improve my academic skills. Task 1 focused on academic writing, where I learned to structure essays clearly, use proper referencing, and critically evaluate sources. Completing this task highlighted the importance of planning and drafting before producing a final piece of work. Task 2 involved research and presentation skills, where I worked collaboratively with classmates to create a report and deliver a short oral presentation. This task helped me gain confidence in speaking publicly and presenting complex ideas in a clear and concise manner.

In addition to the formal tasks, classroom discussions and group exercises were particularly impactful. For example, during a debate on the reliability of online sources, I learned how to critically assess information and differentiate between credible and non-credible references. Peer feedback sessions also allowed me to see alternative approaches to academic tasks, helping me to reflect on my own learning strategies and adopt more effective techniques. Overall, these experiences provided both practical and theoretical knowledge that has shaped my approach to academic work.

Analysis and Personal Reflection

Reflecting on my experiences, I recognize several strengths that I developed during the module. One of my main strengths was research and critical thinking. Task 2, which required gathering and evaluating multiple sources, challenged me to assess the reliability and relevance of information. Initially, I struggled to synthesize diverse viewpoints, but by actively engaging with classroom discussions and seeking guidance from the instructor, I improved my ability to construct well-supported arguments. Similarly, Task 1 allowed me to enhance my academic writing skills, particularly in organizing ideas logically and using proper referencing. Receiving feedback on my drafts was invaluable, as it helped me identify areas where my writing lacked clarity or precision, and I applied these insights to subsequent assignments.

Another area of strength was collaboration and communication. Group activities encouraged me to listen actively, share ideas confidently, and negotiate roles and responsibilities. For example, during a group exercise on analysing case studies, I contributed ideas while also learning from my peers' approaches. This improved not only my teamwork skills but also my ability to articulate complex

concepts in a structured way.

However, the module also highlighted areas for improvement. One area I need to work on is time management. During Task 1, I initially underestimated the time required for research and drafting, which caused some last-minute pressure. I learned that breaking tasks into smaller, manageable steps and adhering to a schedule is crucial for maintaining quality and reducing stress. Another area for improvement is oral presentation skills. While Task 2 helped build my confidence, I noticed that I sometimes rushed through points or relied too heavily on my notes. Practicing more and engaging in mock presentations could help me present more fluently and naturally.

The module also significantly contributed to my personal growth. I became more self-aware of my learning style and how I respond to feedback. Participating in discussions and peer review sessions taught me to value constructive criticism and reflect on my work critically. I also developed greater resilience and adaptability; for instance, when my group faced challenges in coordinating schedules for Task 2, I learned to adjust my approach, communicate effectively, and ensure our work remained on track. Overall, these experiences have strengthened my academic confidence, enhanced my critical thinking, and improved my ability to communicate ideas effectively, both in writing and orally.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Academic Skills module has been instrumental in developing my academic and personal abilities. Through tasks, discussions, and collaborative exercises, I improved my research, writing, and presentation skills while gaining greater self-awareness and confidence. I identified strengths such as critical thinking and teamwork, as well as areas for improvement like time management and oral delivery. Overall, the module has positively impacted my learning journey by equipping me with practical skills, enhancing my academic performance, and preparing me for future challenges in this programme. These experiences have provided a solid foundation for continued personal and academic growth.