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ACS report

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1 Introduction

In February 2025 I started for the first time at university the module Academic skills. Even though at first it might seem difficult, I learned and understood how to manage responsibilities through the module skills I have been shown at Academia.

In this Report I will talk about my learning experience during this term alongside my colleagues and teacher. Analyzing first Research skills , second Paraphrasing and third Reflective writing. Those specific three skills have helped me write this reflective report and will be useful in the future.

2 Description

In the period of 9 weeks of teaching I experienced many situations in and outside of the classroom. Thankfully to miss Grewal there were funny stories during lessons so that the students felt more comfortable and able to remember the class.

In week 3 I remember when we learned about Research Skills, she gave an example where to find useful information during the strike period for those who use the underground and how to make sure the information is accurate. What I learned that day is that it's important to know how to research, because if the information is not accurate you could mislead or spread false facts. So when searching for information try to use the CRAAP test: Currency, Relevance, Authority, Accuracy, Purpose it is a method to evaluate the facts (Sarah Blakeslee 2004).

In week 5 Miss Grewal taught the class about paraphrasing. She showed us different words that we had to find the synonyms for. The exercise was very helpful later for task 2 where we needed to paraphrase the whole sentence. Paraphrasing is rewriting another's person's idea in different words, but still has to include all information without leaving nothing out. Paraphrasing is used for different reasons like to avoid plagiarism, to prove knowledge and to analyse ideas. According to Future Learn (n.d) to paraphrase correctly you have to choose multiple techniques, for example to adjust the format of the sentence and to find similar words to the main ones.

In week 7 I learned about Reflective writing, one methode is the Gibbs' Reflective Cycle(1988) that I used in this report. Among this one there are Kolb's experiential Learning cycle (1988) and Driscoll's Model (1994,2000). Besides those there are many other methods to reflect. "Reflection is an academic method of recording and evaluating your experience, skills or learning. Reflective writing combines your emotion, thoughts and subject knowledge." (Leeds Beckett University 2024). There are different perspectives so when reflective it is important to consider the other side so that you can learn from experience and not to repeat the same mistake.

3 Feelings/Reaction

Before starting at university I had mixed emotions about it, I thought that it would be a lot harder and complicated. Especially during exams period, luckily i underestimated myself and did better than expected. What I found very difficult is transportation, financially and time consuming. Since I am a night worker in the mornings it's very difficult to wake up early to make lunch for university and to be on time.

3.1 Evaluation

What I liked about my experience was that I overcame my fear of speaking in front of people and became more communicative. At first I was not able to speak in class or to share opinions, but thankfully the teacher noticed and encouraged me to talk more often. With time I even changed contact details with my classmates and asked them for advice.

What I didn't like was that different colleagues did take advantage of speaking your opinion and stated some ideas without facts or evidence. Trying to argue with the class or teacher on politics or different subjects such as personal issues, asking Miss Grewal for advice since she was a lawyer. Most of them would do this just to pass time and change subject from the lesson.

3.2 Analysis

Everyone has their own qualities and disadvantages. One of my strengths is summarizing, because during lessons some of my colleagues could not understand what the situation was about so they asked me to translate and I would tell them in a few words what was important.

On the other hand, one of my weaknesses is time management, for example I would sometimes come to university late because I didn't take the underground at the right time. Sometimes at home I struggled with the chores, because I didn't calculate my time with work and university.

4 Conclusion

In this report I talked about 3 academic skills that I learned , which I will use for next term. Also I learned to be more confident and speak my mind. During the whole period of teaching just like anyone I could have made different choices . For example for the first 2 weeks I tried note taking on my phone, but it did not work for me so I changed to writing notes down on paper. In the end I adjusted to the situations, developing my skills and myself personally.

5 Personal Action Plan

From what I learned from my mistakes this semester I will improve for the future. Next semester I will try to improve my time management skills so I will be on time for classes and personal life (work,gatherings, appointments). Also I will ask for more help when I struggle with school work, if I feel like I stayed behind the others.

6 References

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