

Reflective Report

ACS report

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Module Code: LCLM4001

Module: Academic Skills

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1 Introduction

Reflection is an essential technique for university students, as it helps us assess our experiences and spot areas where we can improve. (Johnson, 2022). This way involves reviewing in our learning and by recognizing how we have grown academically and personally. In this report, I will be discussing three significant experiences that I have learnt in my university: working on group projects, my time management, and performing effectively on note-taking techniques. Each of these experiences has contributed to development into the academic key skills, including critical thinking, self-management and effective communication learning. In this case taking charge of my own learning is crucial for my academic progress that I want to make and as well my future career that takes place in myself.

2 Description of Experiences

This module, I developed my skills in paraphrasing, academic writing and critical writing. Paraphrasing involves rewording the original text in a way that supports the meaning to present its structure, which helps avoid plagiarism. (Smith, 2022). Academic writing involves presenting ideas clearly, logically and formally using reliable evidence, this is effective when it comes to communicating, researching and analysis. (Godfrey, 2019). Critical thinking is the ability to evaluate, analyse, and synthesize information, as is important to prove strong formal, evidence-based data-based conclusions actively and skilfully. (Lau, 2020).

One experience that developed me with paraphrasing was during week 5 task 1, when we practiced paraphrasing the statement text to outline the body on important parts. We practiced individually and made it easier for me to get better at structuring the whole text. In class discussions we worked finding out how it can be structured. Academic writing skills made me improve in week 4 task 2, when we looked at paragraphs and we had to rewrite it and make it more formal. I had difficulties making it formal, I practised and made it better. Finally, critical writing developed my skills in week 9 task 1, when we labelled each statement a true, wrong or opinion.

3 Personal Reflection

Reflecting in this module has contributed to my development of academic skills practically in critical writing, paraphrasing and written communication. This has established progress in so many ways during academic skills. Also, this has allowed me to emerge more with my academic skills with where to take sources from and to highlight the important part by expressing ideas more clearly and independently. Although I had challenges during my work, these difficulties provided me with insights into the areas that needed to be improved. Although my target was to practise more and be focused on the planning of my work. I am confident that I have the clarity to enhance my work learning. Overall, this module has strengthened both my academic abilities very well as an independent learner.

3.1 Evaluation

Throughout this module, I experienced both successes and challenges with my paraphrasing skills, academic writing and critical thinking. In week 4 task 2, where we analysed the paragraphs, it went well for me, but at the same time I had difficulties along the way, but I could overcome them. All group discussions that took place were helpful because we focused on going through each activity and evaluating the credibility for each task. The exercise with critical thinking improved me, but I had some access to each argument carefully with the sentences. Paraphrasing was also a key part of this task. I had to reword the main point ideas in my own words, which I'll say this really helped me understand the topic material well and avoid copying the text.

However, even though I faced some challenges when it came to organizing my ideas clearly in certain activities it went very well. I then found it hard to stay focused when it came to paraphrasing the material properly without relying too much on direct sections. I struggled keeping my writing concise while still adjusting the exact meaning to its original. The feedback that I received from the teacher was extremely helpful, especially when the teacher pointed out the areas where I could improve, like the formality of words so my transitions can be smooth. Despite the difficulties, I was then able to revise my work and make progress. Overall, I feel like I've improved in both paraphrasing and critical thinking, and I'm more confident in my academic writing now.

3.2 Analysis

In week 9 task 1 critical thinking went well because of the group discussions and the structure of the task itself. The group discussions helped me because hearing other people's points, opinions made me think more carefully about my work. The University of Plymouth (2020) shows that critical thinking improves students to be encouraged to ask questions instead of accepting information. I think this helped me to set up my work as I had to read each statement and define what I thought it was. When it came to paraphrasing it became hard for me at first but the practice during class then became easier for me because I just needed to explain my ideas in my own words to have a similar meaning to its original text. According to The Royal Literary Fund (2020) suggests that good paraphrasing is important for showing understanding and avoiding plagiarism, I tried to see this when we worked on explaining each point in class discussions. This made me realise that engaging properly with materials can help me understand the module topics a lot better.

Although, academic writing was a lot challenging for me. I would say that the reason for this was because I didn't spend enough time on planning before writing. The University of Leeds (2020) says that without clear structure and writing can become confusing and hard to follow. I would say that I made this mistake because I tried to include every information in my writing in every way which made my writing unclear, too long without linking them properly. Paraphrasing was as hard for me as my structure of the work layout was weak, and I sometimes ended up copying in my writing the way to its original text. The SkillsYouNeed (2022) says that students often struggle with paraphrasing because they fear changing the meaning. I experienced this too as I worry that if I reword it would be too much and it would be inaccurate or even lose the original idea. This pressured me less to be confident in my writing, and it would slow down my writing as well.

In these experiences, I can see that one of my strengths is being able to think critically and evaluate my points in my structure. Meanwhile, I would need to work on being clear on planning my work and structuring my writing better. In the future, I will plan to stay focused to spend more time organizing my ideas into my work before writing and I would have to practise more on paraphrasing exercises. This would then build up my confidence when it comes to writing. I am so confident in using mind mapping to make it easier to plan my work clearly. Overall, this module shows what I did well and not so well and what I need to improve to become better.

4 Conclusion

This report that I have discussed my development in academic writing, critical writing and paraphrasing. I have found strengths in evaluating sources that explained how group discussions improved my understanding. I also reflected on the challenges with writing structure and paraphrasing. Overall, this module has had a positive impact on my learning journey by making me more aware of my skills and where I will need to improve. I have now understood the importance of planning my work, clear writing and critical writing. Therefore, I will feel prepared to approach my academic tasks better with strategies and more confidence with my ability.

5 References

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