

**Week 8 - Signature Assignment: Appraise Your Progress**

Name

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Date

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As a student, I am trying to fit NCU into my life. Week one was the best experience in learning as it made me not feel overwhelmed by an assignment. Moreover, it wanted me to give a detailed account of time management skills by reviewing my daily schedules and priorities. My passion for being a professional teacher after graduation is tied with other responsibilities of being a mother. My preferences, therefore, range between family and schoolwork, which I try to balance. Most of the time, I find it very challenging since household duties at times tie me down, leaving me with little time to study. On the other side, I value my profession as a teacher and would like to succeed all together. In reality, puts food teaching puts food on my table, and that means that I have to ensure that I give it much consideration.

The time that I felt I had developed ineffective study habits is when I spend much of my time on television, doing irrelevant duties, and using social media. This is because it reduces the amount of time that I will spend on my graduate studies. I have never created time for my graduate studies in my calendar and only come to check for assignment posts after a day or two. The average time that I waste on television and social media is approximately 3 hours daily, which is enough to help me cover much work from my studies. This course has enabled me to understand the value of time management, prioritize my studies, and balance it with other activities. I am keeping in mind that I will be learning briefly and not forever. Coming up with a time planner and a master list has been beneficial. I can now deal with my assignments in the evenings after taking care of my daily routines and family (Latham, 2015).

Week two came in handy to help me realize the problems that students face in bridging the gap in learning. From the articles, the authors presented ways in which a lack of necessary skills affects the ability of learners to remember or connect ideas. Burns (2007) speaks about a weak foundation as the basis of learning problems among students. As a teacher, this empowered

me to ensure that I transfer learning to my students in a manner that will enable them to develop critical competencies.

Burns (2007) has been a source of inspiration to my methods of teaching by making me view myself as responsible for a student's success or failure to some extent. He has gone ahead to outline various strategies like the explicit connection with students, continuous support, and student interaction. I now understand the value of creating a foundation as a way to enable learners to make connections of concepts through levels. The authors also insisted that learning is possible only if students comprehend a concept which they can later use in the next grade level. This mentoring process was positive on my side as I was able to understand why some students fail. However, at some point, these strategies do not work, especially where a student has psychological issues in understanding. It drags learning behind, and the best way to counter this is by ensuring that I assign such students extra work that they will submit to me after which I can go through with them for better understanding.

Week 3 assignment on scholarly and popular articles was very educative. I have always faced difficulties in the differences between the two. The challenges usually come in whenever I have to rely on other sources of information to better explain some things to my students. At times, I end up using contradicting information from non-scholarly articles, and I have to go and ask from the library or a friend which wastes time.

Topics in scholarly articles are specific and seem to prompt closer research as opposed to the popular articles which usually have generalized or informal issues. The main objective of this area in my study is that it enabled me to be understanding articles that I can use as a source of reference. The scholarly articles are very professional, and authors specialized in that field

usually reviews its information. They are also based on research with data obtained and cited from other sources. I also learned that authors of scholarly articles often talk from experience or experimentation, meaning that they have evidence for their work. I have never been mentored or taught about these skills, and I have found them useful in my education, especially when trying to determine sources to cite for my work. I have now been able to overcome such challenges after this topic with the guidance of the resources and discussion with other classmates.

My study problem was always finding a means of minimizing the gap in learning transfer. The week four topic helped guide me on the NCU library resources. I had the opportunity to try and find some sources from the library on my own, but that proved to be complicated. The topic enlightened me on the importance of critical words in bridging my research to a specific option. Limiters were also available to assist in restricting my search to only scholarly articles.

Developing scholarly writing articles in week five have also boosted my skills in the process of transfer of learning. To help students be able to connect concepts, I believe that this section was significant. My writings skills have not been perfect for a long time since I did not have the necessary elements needed with me. I was not taught some strategies that I have learned in this section, especially on the part of paraphrasing. This has dramatically affected my grading because my poor grades all emanate from a section of this part. The three sources used in this module helped me come up with a different version of my statement problem (Bransford, Brown & Cocking, 2000). I also learned the ways of paraphrasing other peoples work to make them my original piece. I will try and improve on the plagiarism index by looking again at the paraphrasing section repeatedly on my own.

I have also learned in this module that scholarly writing contains ethical considerations like ethical communication and academic integrity, which are useful in any writing. Honesty has been considered a unique virtue without which a person engages in academic dishonesty (Kaufman, 2008). Deadlines have always been a problem on my part, and I intend to use my formulated markup calendar and a timer to ensure that I attend to them on time. The multiple roles that I have to play as a parent, a teacher, and learner requires that I manage my time well to avoid any academic misconducts. I understand the punishment for any misconduct and these calls for time management. ((McCabe et al., 2001).

### Summary

Week 1 on time management enabled me to be a good planner putting into consideration the most critical issues that affect my education. I have learned to do away with less important matters, like watching television or using social media to create enough time for my studies. However, I still need to improve on the part of the family, which may call for hiring someone to help me for the period being in school, but that is something to consider later.

Week 2 on bridging the gap helped me to understand how valuable I am as a teacher in assisting a learner in connecting concepts that they have learned through the levels of education. What I need to improve are methodologies of meeting the needs of students who are slow learners since they will need much time or personal interactions.

Week 3 explains the differences between scholarly and popular articles. This module was meant to help me understand the difference between the two types of articles. I have learned that information retrieved from a scholarly article is more reliable as compared to that from a popular

article. I still need to improve on ways of determining what articles have been researched and their publications approved.

Week 4 module was aimed at enabling us to understand how the NCU library resources function. I was able to understand how these resources can be beneficial in the transfer of learning. I have learned to use keywords and limiters in searching for an article. My problem is on determining the best keyword to use because each keyword has a different article, but I am working on it.

Week 5 on scholarly articles helps us learn skills that will enable the improved transfer of learning through writing. I was able to understand various writing elements like paraphrasing and avoiding plagiarism. What I am continually working on is how to avoid plagiarism at all costs. Week 6 on devising a cogent argument helped me devise a valid argument to convince my audience that bridging the gap in learning is worthy in assisting students in remembering past concepts. I still need to work more on giving sufficient details to support my claims since some people may not get it well.

#### Areas of strength

The areas that I learned through the course and still need strength to do better are NCU library research. This is because this is a crucial area in helping me determine credible sources for my work. With the ability to identify sources will help in improving my ability to transfer learning to students in a bid to bridge the gap between higher and elementary learning. I am trying to solve this weakness by having a daily practice of searching key terms and applying limiters to my search for at least one source daily. It will ensure that I perfect the skill as it will be beneficial to my future studies.

Another area that I still need to strengthen is developing scholarly writing skills. This writing process is always thorough and requires one to plan well and be organized. It encompasses various techniques such as avoiding plagiarism, proper citation style, paraphrasing, and using scholarly articles. At some point, I make mistakes in trying to paraphrase an article or having correct grammar. I need to work on this area as it represents a significant part of my study. Generating my work from other persons is always challenging, especially where one feels that there is no other way to say what the author has written. Currently, I have always been working on this area, and it is part of my reminder to try and paraphrase an article every week. My progress is improving so far, and I believe that soon, it will be perfect.

The scholarly writing skills have also been an area that I need to put more strength due to the consequences that it bears (Northcentral University, 2019). For instance, gross misconduct like dishonesty may lead to legal remedy, discontinuity, plagiarism, and failed grade. I intend to use the ethics in academic integrity as this will help me better my future grades in the courses I will be pursuing.

## Reference

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