Reflections on Learning and Writing Skills Development

## Strengths and Future Application

Reflecting on my Week Three essay, I recognized several strengths in my writing, particularly my ability to construct a cohesive argument supported by evidence. A specific point of pride was my analysis of the role of effective communication in professional settings, which was highlighted in the feedback I received for its clarity and depth. This aligns with the course reading on reflective journaling, which emphasizes the importance of clear articulation of ideas to enhance learning (Baresh, 2022). Additionally, the feedback praised my use of structured paragraphs, which significantly contributed to the overall coherence of the essay. These strengths not only boosted my confidence in academic writing but also provided a foundation for future application, particularly in developing persuasive communication skills essential in various professional contexts.

## Areas for Improvement

Despite the strengths identified in my Week Three essay, I recognize the need for improvement, particularly in the area of critical analysis. The feedback pointed out that while my arguments were well-structured, they occasionally lacked depth in examining alternative perspectives. This observation aligns with the course reading on reflective journaling, which stresses the importance of engaging with diverse viewpoints to enrich one's understanding (Baresh, 2022). Additionally, I found that my use of transitional phrases was sometimes abrupt, disrupting the flow of ideas, which was another area highlighted for refinement. Addressing these shortcomings will be crucial in enhancing the analytical depth and coherence of my future essays, ultimately contributing to a more nuanced and comprehensive exploration of topics in my academic writing.

## Potential Changes

Reflecting on my Week Three essay, one change I would implement is a more thorough engagement with diverse viewpoints to enhance the depth of my analysis. The course reading on reflective journaling emphasizes the value of considering multiple perspectives to foster a more comprehensive understanding (Baresh, 2022). By incorporating a broader range of sources, I could strengthen my arguments and provide a more balanced discussion. Additionally, I would focus on refining the use of transitional phrases to ensure a smoother flow of ideas throughout the essay. This adjustment would address the abrupt transitions noted in the feedback, resulting in a more cohesive narrative that effectively guides the reader through the analysis.

## Research Challenges and Insights

During the research process for my Week Three essay, I encountered several challenges, particularly in locating sources that offered diverse perspectives on my topic. This difficulty was compounded by the vast amount of information available, necessitating a careful selection to ensure relevance and credibility. According to Heinrich and colleagues, overcoming research challenges requires a strategic approach to sourcing and analyzing information (Heinrich et al., 2020). Despite these obstacles, I learned a great deal about the importance of critical evaluation in research, which enhanced my understanding of the topic. An unexpected finding was the nuanced interplay between theoretical concepts and practical applications, which provided a richer context for my analysis and underscored the value of thorough research.

## Final Thoughts and Future Writing

Reflecting on my experiences in ENC1101, I can confidently say that the course has significantly enhanced my writing skills, particularly in constructing well-supported arguments. This improvement is largely due to the structured approach to reflective journaling, which has encouraged me to engage critically with my writing processes (Baresh, 2022). The skills acquired will be instrumental in my future academic endeavors, providing a solid foundation for writing tasks across various disciplines. For incoming students, I advise embracing the challenges of the course as opportunities for growth and actively seeking feedback as a tool for continuous improvement. This proactive approach will not only enhance their writing capabilities but also prepare them for the diverse writing demands they will encounter in their academic and professional lives.