# Reflective Commentary Introduction

This introduction is divided into two parts. The first part introduces my teaching journey and where I am currently at in this journey and the nature of what I am currently teaching. The second part exposes my initial thoughts on how I hope to complete a reflective summary report as part of the award of a Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education (PGCHE).

## From Sunday School Teacher to Higher Education Tutor

I have been introduced to teaching from an early age, teaching Sunday School as a teenager. It was this experience that first began to always make me ponder on ways to catch and retain the attention of the learners I teach. My name is John Alamina, I currently teach international foundation year and international year one students in a post-1992 University in England. With over 20,000 students the University has a diversified community with a large number of international students. My role as a tutor for foundation and year one students is to give these first time in Higher Education students a smooth as possible journey as they transition into Higher Level Education in England. The modules I teach within the Department of Engineering, Science and Computing are Professional Thinking and Learning Skills, Pure Maths, Core Maths, Software Design and Computing.

## Reflective Commentary - Initial thoughts

There is a lot of information to keep in mind when considering how to structure a personal reflective commentary. The first thing to contend with is the style of reflective writing. I have so far observed two styles of reflective commentary writing. I am in favour of the style of reflective writing that blends academic-style writing with reflective-style writing such that it feels as much academic as it does reflective by maintaining a formal writing structure as opposed to a simple journal-style writing. Following this style of reflecting commentary writing, I believe, will make the report accessible to a wider range of readers due to a familiar formal structure and tone.

The most important contender to deal with while writing this reflective commentary, however, in my opinion, is being able to exhibit the required knowledge and abilities required for the certificate award in a manner that demonstrates a grounded theoretical framework, one that stems from adequate research in education. A rather sketchy strategy I am formulating at this time is trying to build this framework from a set of core objectives founded in the United Kingdom Professional Standards Framework (UKPSF). These objectives include: teaching and learning strategies; module/curriculum development; assessing student work; and, providing feedback and support.