Self-Assessment--Readiness for Self-Directed Learning

What follows is a list of skills that could be considered important for independent learning. As you read, consider your own history with learning, both in school and out. Note in the space provided your experience and competence in each area. Don’t feel bad if you fall short in some or many of these categories! That just means you are a product of traditional schooling.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Life skills:** How well do you organize your time? How well do you cooperate with others? Do you have a support network that you rely on? | I feel I severely lack on managing my time and I keep getting stuck on things which I like to work on. I am lucky to be in a major that rewards my interest but again I keep missing deadlines and can’t find myself working on other subjects that are mandatory but not related to my major and I realize that this behavior can penalize my later on in life.  In order to fix that I think I will put a stricter regime on myself and put a stricter deadline on things that I don’t like to work on. |
| **Independence**: Are you a self-starter or do you need to be pushed? Are you easily influenced by others? Do you have strong interests? | If I like something or I am interested in something I put everything behind to accomplish that task. For example, if I am given the option of writing an essay and writing code, I will always deviate towards the other one. I think my previous learning experiences have conditioned me to think of essays as an unproductive source and deep down inside I understand that this thinking is entirely wrong. |
| **"Basic” skills**: Can you rely on skills like reading, writing, mathematics, and computer knowledge to get things done? Can you read charts and graphs? | I am extremely sufficient to find and analyze reading and charts and graphs to make a conclusion and make informed decisions. |
| **Research skills**: Are you good at finding information in libraries/online (secondary research), and in the community (primary research)? | I think my previous research experience and my experience in reading papers and documentation will definitely benefit me in this regard. |
| **Study skills**: How well do you organize your learning? Do you have a note-taking system? Do you read the assignments carefully? | I primarily rely on making notes and annotations and try to summarise within 10 lines a particular concept or opinion that is delivered by a given paper. |
| **Learning to learn**: Do you generally know the purpose of assignments? Do you know what your strengths and weaknesses are as a learner? | I think I can understand the basic purpose behind assignments and try to finish things in one go no matter how tiresome it gets. I feel working in one go gives my undivided attention to a task and that helps focus since I have put away all distractions. However on things that cannot put my mind through or are not in my expertise I struggle and my mind tends to deviate to different tasks that I like working on. |
| **Planning skills**: Have you ever created a plan to learn something and carried it out? Do you use a planner regularly? | While I do maintain a planner, I occasionally tend to deviate from it and most of the time I feel bad about it. |
| **Problem development skills**: Do you consider yourself a problem solver? Do you ever follow up on your curiosity through research activities? | I definitely consider myself to a problem solver and if some topics/concepts excite my interest I tend to go above and beyond to learn about them. |
| **Analytical skills**: Are you an efficient learner? Do you pick the best source of information, or the first one that comes to you? | I do tend to sift through a lot of information before committing myself to a particular piece and I use my intuition to decide if a paper is relevant to my interest or not. |
| **Communication skills**: How well can you communicate what you know? Are you able to interest others in a topic or a problem? | While I can bring together people to show something I worked on all week/month to create and I enjoy presenting that work, I find it hard to work on a particular topic with other people. |
| **Evaluation skills**: Do you seek out and use feedback effectively? Do others seek out and value your feedback? | I try to be mindful and patient when someone is presenting an idea/a concept and try to think through it before giving back feedback. However I think I like being ruthlessly true once I have given my full though to it as it results in no BS. |
| **Completion skills**: Do you work to others’ standards of completion, or to your own? Do you tend to lose interest in projects quickly? | I tend to work to my own standards and can’t seem to wrap my head around others' standards as standards are created by experiences and feedback I don’t always share the same experiences that other do.  I do not lose interest in projects( that I liked the ideas initially) that are still viable to execute. |

After evaluating your readiness to learn, describe (below) what you think your strengths and weaknesses might be in planning, implementing, and evaluating an independent project. How might you use your strengths? How could you compensate for or address your weaknesses?

Write about this in a paragraph.

I will focus on reading through papers and try to put myself through the paraphrasing and quoting them accordingly while utilizing my technical skills to put forward a compelling argument regarding the validity of democratic education and why it should be accepted as an acceptable form of education by the majority. I will try to plan and allocate out 2 hours to every alternate day to going through papers and creating a well prepared synthesis matrix. I will also try to connect with my team members and try to provide valuable feedback and arguments to their topics and hope to receive the same from them.