FYP PREPARATION EXERCISE 3 (IDAW ANALYSIS)

This is the 3rd and final exercise designed to try and help you come up with a *good* FYP idea. To complete this table you should try and pull in some of the information about your interests and dislikes that emerged through completing the previous 2 exercises as well as external factors outside your university experience which will have an impact on the type of FYP that would be best for you:

Interests	Dislikes
In this section you should list things you are interested in. These points can come from modules you have studied or from technologies that fascinate you, ideas and concepts, programming languages, hobbies, outside interests etc.	In this section you should list things you dislike doing or studying. These points can come from modules you have studied or these could from technologies, ideas and concepts, programming languages, external factors etc.
Aspirations	**Weaknesses**
Where do you want to be at the end of the final year project in terms of skills acquired? You may also want to link these aspirations to the skills you identified in the exercise where you analysed some job adverts.	Thinking about some of the points identified in the lecture about problems encountered by past students doing their FYP, and reviewing the points you have made in the other sections, try and identify particular issues for *you* that might affect the successful completion of *your* FYP and final year overall and hinder the achievement of your aspirations. (e.g. time management). You will need to be very honest with yourself here.

So what…
Now review what you have entered in the sections above, is there a strong "theme" emerging? Does the "Aspiration" section include too many points (e.g. 10+), too few, or even none at all? Are there any contradictions or anomalies? (e.g. PHP listed under "Dislikes" but also under "Aspirations"). Does anything you have put down in the "Weakness" section look like it might seriously affect the successful achievement of a particular point listed in "Achievements"?
Once you have resolved any issues with the sections above for now concentrate on the "Interests" and "Aspirations" sections – is anything "leaping out"? Don't worry if it is not at this stage, you may have to go through this exercise a few more times before your idea comes to you.
If a clear idea or topic is now emerging you might want to *start* to try and formulate a research question around your topic that you could answer through doing your FYP. (e.g. "Is it possible to create a totally accessible and inclusive website?")

Addressing Weaknesses

There is not much point identifying weaknesses that may have serious implications for the success or otherwise of your final year and not planning to do anything about them. One way to tackle this is to develop an Action Plan to help you. Below you can see the beginning of an example Action Plan, you should have at least one action plan for each weakness you have identified. You may also find it useful to set some 'due dates' for your action plan, if you don't it is all too easy to let your good intentions slip! You will need to complete an Action Plan for each element/point. At a later date you may wish to return to your Action Plan – did you actually implement all the things you set out? Did it work/improve things? etc. In the light of this re-evaluation, you may wish to re-write your action plan and add any new elements that you think are necessary.

Example Action Plan

Weakness	Action Plan	Review date	Indicator of success
My report writing is not good, I don't proof-read effectively and I know I ramble and waffle and that my reports lack structure	Read "*How to write a good report*" by F. Bloggs, before the next assignment is due in (January 2018). Write a draft of my work and ask the tutor for feedback.	December 2017	Book read Feedback rec'd on draft
My time management is really bad, I always leave my assignments to the last minute and I always seem to be running late.	Use the diary/planning function in my mobile phone. Enter and plan all activities (course work, employment, personal & social etc.). Read "*The 26 hour day*" by J. Smith and implement some appropriate suggestions.	December 2017	Using diary planning function All activities entered Book read – suggestions implemented…