**1. Describe what you did. This does not mean that you copy and paste from what you have posted**

**or the assignments you have prepared. You need to describe what you did and how you did it.**

This week, I found information on verification and validation for a discussion post. I assessed my peers’ assignments and emailed the instructor to get guidance regarding possible plagiarism. I also completed the writing assignment about a case study and used the template that the instructor provided us to augment my report.

**2. Describe your reactions to what you did**

I was astonished to get three peer assignments to review that all had the same diagrams. The chances of 3 students plagiarising and all being assigned to me seemed beyond unlikely. With that in mind, and the fact that I am far from an expert in this field, I wanted to be certain I wasn’t being over critical of what they had done. Moreover, I wasn’t certain the document the diagrams they were using weren’t also from some material I had overlooked.

**3. Describe any feedback you received or any specific interactions you had. Discuss how they were helpful**

I emailed the instructor to make sure that I was not being overly critical of my peer’s writing assignments and the diagrams they chose to include. Moreover, we’ve been told time and time again that if we see evidence of plagiarism to bring it up to the professor.

I wasn’t sure how to handle the grading if the document was plagiarized as normally I would expect an “F” or “0”. Nonetheless, the advice he gave on how to grade was sound and so I ran with that.

**4. Describe your feelings and attitudes**

I enjoyed the writing assignment on Ariane 5. First, it was an interesting historical case that I had not heard about. Second, I enjoy applying the theoretical, so having a chance to try out a test case template was fun. I didn’t feel I knew enough about the rocket launcher modules to create a good test case, but at least I got to get a sense of what sort of document might be expected under the circumstances.

**5. Describe what you learned**

At a very base level, I learned that there are templates for test cases. I know that sounds trite, but I would have thought that each project would be different enough that a template wouldn’t make sense. Then again, I figure that with very large projects having an assortment of templates would be necessary.

**Another set of questions to consider in your learning journal statement include:**

**1. What surprised me or caused me to wonder?**

At first, when I read the Ariane 5 case study, I was looking for many issues that would have caused the disaster. I was extremely surprised that a self-destruct sequence started all because of a problem with converting a floating point number to a 16-bit number. Wow!!

**2. What happened that felt particularly challenging? Why was it challenging to me?**

I mentioned earlier not having the technical knowledge to put together a proper test case. I reiterate that here. I know that the test case needs to be simulating flight data that could potentially cause the strap-down inertial module to fail. What exactly that would entail is a still unclear to me. As such, putting the test case together knowing that it will be graded by peers, I felt was a challenge.

**3. What skills and knowledge do I recognize that I am gaining?**

I am glad to see that I am getting a sense of what it takes to build a large software system. And, I’m sure that this is only the tip of the iceberg. Along they way, I know that I am picking up the jargon of the field too, which is helpful.

**4. What am I realizing about myself as a learner?**

Based on my experience with simple research on a theoretical topic vs applying the information, I see that I am much more comfortable learning from application. The case study was a great way to learn about testing. I know for a fact that I didn’t grasp all that testing could be prior to reading that example.

**5. In what ways am I able to apply the ideas and concepts gained to my own experience?**

I don’t have anywhere to apply this week’s gained knowledge to just yet. However, I know that this information will be of value at some point in the future.

**Finally, describe one important thing that you are thinking about in relation to the activity.**

I’d say the most important thing to consider is that sometime the smallest errors can lead to the largest failure. Another important consideration is that human judgement can be faulty. the Ariane 5 disaster could have been avoided if the 3/7 un protected modules had been corrected. Following process and testing everything would have avoided the problem.