**CS1 – Week 5 – Worksheet – Students**

**Activity 1**. Look at the example Evaluation paragraph below. It is based on a groupwork assignment.

Work in pairs and discuss the following:

1. Is the paragraph a good Evaluation of the experience? Why(not)?

Yes it has

* What was good and bad about the experience?
* What went well?
* What didn’t go so well?
* What did you and other people contribute to the situation
* How was the overall outcome? Good or bad?
* Reflection

1. How many aspects worked well and how many did not, according to the writer?
2. Is the paragraph coherent enough? What makes it coherent?
3. Underline all cohesive devices that you can identify within the text (we discussed cohesive devices last two weeks).
4. If you could, how would you write this paragraph better?

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| Looking reflectively on the groupwork assignment, I believe it had both positive and not very positive aspects.  Topic Sentence  On the positive side, although  there were some minor issues now and then that were beyond anybody’s control, each group member produced good quality work for the agreed deadline, at all stages of the project. Then, there was excellent team spirit and motivation during most of the assignment.  **But, you may realise that life is not all a bed of roses, and as a coin has two sides, this group assignment had its downturn as well. The only occasion I felt uncertain about the integrity and power of the team was when two members could not fulfil their responsibilities on time, but it was due to unavoidable family and health related reasons.**  Instead, the fact that two people from the group had to cancel plans motivated us to work harder which, in turn, contributed positively to the group’s work ethics. In addition,  the main thing that clearly did not work in the assignment was that we assumed, wrongly, that we all thought, wrote and worked in the same way and pace, and therefore the overall time plan of the group went wrong because we did not think, write or work in the same style or speed.  Furthermore, we failed to anticipate the problem of unexpected issues such as accidents and to have alterative arrangements.  As an instance, we could have done better if we had anticipated and made alternative arrangements when two team members had to cancel their plans.  Summery sentence  In summary, the positive aspects of our assignment included quality work produced by individuals, excellent teamwork and improved work ethics, and negative aspects included wrong initial assumptions and failure to anticipate problems.  <https://www.ed.ac.uk/reflection/reflectors-toolkit/reflecting-on-experience/gibbs-reflective-cycle> |

**Activity 2**. Underline **the topic** and highlight **the controlling idea** in the following topic sentences.

Example: Driving on freeways requires skill and alertness.

1. Registering for college classes can be a frustrating experience for new students.
2. The rise of indie films is due to several factors.
3. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) can generate a positive reputation for a company leading to possibly more sales and growth.
4. Looking back at my university life, I think it was the most satisfying and productive time in my life so far.
5. The second cause of climate change, as suggested by Mathews and Williams (2019), is related to the irresponsible acts committed by the environmentally unfriendly individuals all around the world.
6. Although we all possess the same physical organs for sensing the world – eyes for seeing. ears for hearing, noses for smelling, skin for feeling, and mouths for tasting – our perception of the world depends to a great extent on the language we speak, according to a famous hypothesis proposed by linguists Edward Sapir and Benjamin Lee Whorf.

(Oshima and Hogue, 2007)

**Activity 3. Writing topic sentences**

Read the following paragraphs and write an appropriate topic sentence for each in the space provided. Then compare your answers in pairs/groups.

**Example:**

\_\_ There are three main qualities that employers look for in their employees. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The most important quality that employers value is the dependability of their workers. It means that they certainly want workers who come to work every day and perform their duties to utmost satisfaction. Another quality that employers want in their workers is responsibility. The employers would like to give their workers a project to do and know that it will be done well. In addition, employers look for workers who can work well with others. The ability to get along with co-workers is important to the success of business. In short, employers look for dependable and responsible team players.

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2)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Although student surveys always show that students like to have access to materials online, the take up of purely online courses is low. When questioned, students find that studying online can be a lonely and unsatisfying experience. Not only do students miss the human interaction with other students, but they also find the time lag in getting answers to their questions very frustrating. Additionally, they have to face the fact that some, if not all, tutors and lecturers come across frequent technological issues which they struggle to resolve on their own. To sum up, students do not opt for purely online courses for different reasons.

3)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Research shows that countries with high levels of immigration are economically successful and that there is a correlation between a mobile labour force and economic prosperity. Immigration serves as an important source of both skilled and unskilled labour in the UK which has come to depend on migrants to plug gaps in its skilled professions and to do jobs that the local population are unwilling to do. Research also shows that 25% of employment opportunities within the UK are offered by firms established and run by immigrant businessmen and corporations. Thus, it may be argued that immigration has contributed positively to the ‘normal’ running of the UK in multiple ways.

4)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Britain had an empire at this time and Germany wanted a similar role in the world. This meant having a strong navy, so the Germans spent a considerable amount of time and effort building up its naval force. Britain responded to this threat to its dominance by strengthening its navy even further. This ‘naval race’ contributed to the increase in tension between the two countries.

(Adapted from Oshima & Hogue (2007). Writing Academic English. Pearson Longman: NY.

**Activity 4**. Look at the two paragraphs A and B. Work in groups of 3 or 4 and discuss the following.

1. How are the texts A and B different from each other?
2. Which paragraph is better in terms of contents, style, and structure?
3. What additional details are there in one of them that are not in the other?

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| **Paragraph A**  Visiting the Parker family was a challenging experience for me for various reasons. First, they come from a completely different cultural background from me. Then I had a limited knowledge about childhood obesity and did not know how to react when I saw their son. I was there to collect some data from them, but I did not find myself comfortable with the Parker family, nor were they with me, so I left the place collecting no information at all. |

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| **Paragraph B**  Visiting the Parker family was a challenging experience for me, and possibly for them too, for various reasons. First, they come from a completely different background from me, including culture, language, religion, and race. For instance, I, being an Arab immigrant with reasonably fluent communication skills, struggled to follow the Scottish English used by the Parkers which I had never heard of before. Also, they seemed to have been in utter shock when they saw me at the door, wearing a black gown and my head covered in black hijab. Secondly, I had a limited knowledge about childhood obesity and did not know how to react when I saw their son. When the Parkers finally brought their 10-year-old son Ken, an unusually obese boy for his age, it was I that was in complete silence then, which might have been awkward for everyone present. I could not say anything or to react in any way for some time. To add, although I was there to collect some data from the Parkers, I did not find myself comfortable with them, nor were they with me, supposedly, so I left the place collecting no information at all. It was evident from their responses and reactions, or lack of them, that they were equally uncomfortable as I was, if not more, for justifiable reasons. To sum up, I did not feel that my first visit to the Parkers was an easy or successful one because of the extreme differences between us, my lack of understanding of obesity and the extent of discomfort on both sides. |

**Activity 5 – Paragraph structure – Supporting details**

Work in pairs. Go to activity 5 in the worksheet. Look at the paragraph and discuss the following:

1. Identify and underline the topic sentence.
2. What is the topic being discussed in the paragraph?
3. Are there sufficient supporting details in the text to prove the topic? Highlight them.
4. Are these supporting details examples, data, statistics, explanation, quotes, or interpretation?
5. Cross out the sentences that should not be in this paragraph? How do these ‘unrelated sentences’ affect the paragraph?

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| Colours create biological reactions in our bodies, and these reactions, in turn, can change our behaviour. Firstly, in one study, athletes needing short bursts of energy were exposed to red light (Williams, 2001). For instance, the muscle strength increased by 13.5 percent, and electrical activity in their arm muscles increased by 5.8 percent, Williams claims. Also, athletes needing more endurance for longer performances responded best when exposed to blue light, as claimed by Ayyar (2002). Ayyar was not an athlete though. Blue is not a good colour for dinnerware, however. Additionally, food looks less appetizing when it is served on blue plates, perhaps because very few foods in nature are of that colour (Samson, 1997). Finally, some studies have shown that the colour green is calming (e.g., Marks, 1999; Spex, 1998). As an example, after London’s Blackfriars Bridge was painted green, the number of suicides from it decreased by 34 percent, the studies claim. One might wonder, consequently, why every place around the world is not painted green then. To sum up, it is clear that colour affects not just our moods, but our behaviour as well.  Adapted from Oshima & Hogue (2007) |

**Activity 6. Writing concluding sentences**

Underline the topic sentence in each paragraph. Then write a concluding sentence. You may either paraphrase the topic sentence or summarise the main points in the paragraph.

Then show them to your partner and seek their opinions/thoughts on them.

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| **Paragraph 1**  You can be a good conversationalist by being a good listener. Firstly, when you are conversing with someone, pay close attention to the speaker’s words while looking at their face. Show your interest by smiling and nodding. Furthermore, do not interrupt while someone is speaking; it is impolite to do so. If you have a good story, wait until the speaker is finished. Also, watch your body language; it can affect your communication whether you are the speaker or the listener. For instance, do not sit slumped in a chair or make nervous hand and foot movements. Be relaxed and bend your body slightly forward to show interest in the person and the conversation. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |

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| **Paragraph 2**  Modern communication technology is driving workers in the corporate world crazy. They feel buried under the large number of messages they receive daily. In addition to telephone calls, office workers receive dozens of voice mail and email messages daily. In one company, in fact, managers receive an average of 100 messages a day. Because they do not have enough time to respond to these messages during office hours, it is common for them to do so in the evenings or weekends at home. Above all, since the remote working and online systems have taken over the traditional working environments, situation has only become worse, not better. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |