Assignment 1 draft

Writing is one of the best ways for people to expression their ideas. As a undergraduate student of U of A, I indeed have lots of experiences on writing. Here, I would like to tell you some of my experiences on writing and how did they changed my writing ability.

When I was doing my intern in a software company. My leader told me to make a report about feasibility of some project. At first , I wanted to finish that work as quick as possible. I thought this is a hard job and I should analyse all the possible solutions to this project. I read 6 essays in 2 weeks. Finally I make a report successfully. However, it is not as good as it looks like, because these were all frontier essays and I didn’t have enough knowledge to understand it well. I just know the surface of it. Packed with a lot of terminologies such as “Efficient Neural Architecture Search” the report does not have a clear clue in it and make people confused. Several days later I made a representation based on this report. Some of my colleagues had knowledge of that project, but they still felt confused about some parts of the report. I asked questions hardly, because their questions could also be my questions. Even if my report is not that good, my colleagues showed their understanding. I made a report based on 6 essays with just 2 weeks, bad quality is forgivable and foreseeable.

Several days later I got another mission to make a report. I tried another way to make it. Instead of looking for as much material as possible, I just focused on one essay. I read the essay, read code of it, changed code of it, I tried to find problems of the essay. Some of the problems can be solved by asking my colleagues or searching on the website and some are not. I rebuild the code because it can helps my comprehension. Finally, I used 6 weeks on this essay and I thought I totally understood it. This time, I made a report, all the questions asked by my colleagues are answered. Besides, I also raised a lot of questions of the essay and indicated some limitations of it. With experimental data given, all my colleagues are convinced by my report.

This story told me that for academic writing, understanding is the most important. In academic report, I need to persuade my listeners with my ideas. Before convincing my listers I should convince myself first. I should first persuade myself that all of these methods will works well. Besides, I should have good enough comprehension and expression skill to show my ideas to listener. Another method that I learned is “A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush”. In the first report, I referenced 6 essays but not totally understand them. That makes me forgettable and a bit mixed about these essays. They all talks about similar things. I also don’t have enough time to comprehend them, I just remembered the key points that looks important. Somehow it works, but after several months, I nearly forgot all the things about them. However in the second time, I used a lot of time to make sure that I am master of it. I made many tests and improvements based on the original version, that makes me comprehend deeper and deeper about it. Until now, I can still remember the core idea and structure of it. Sea of knowledge is endless, what I can do is cup a handful of water that closest to me. Academic writing is neither that easy nor that hard, the key point I think is: If your understand, then everything is easy, if not, everything is hard.