*To improve my English vocabulary for my major, I will read an abstract from an article related to my major each week. I will also add at least 5 new words each week to my word bank from these abstracts. I will do this each week until the end of semester exams. I will know my vocabulary for my major has improved by examining my lecture’s comments from the DCP poster and mark against my research report from the first semester.*

**Specific**: Improve vocabulary for major with weekly reading and word review.

**Measurable**: Old writing marks can be compared to new writing marks.

**Achievable**: All students can try to improve their marks in a class they choose.

**Relevant**: Improving vocabulary is important for English students because it helps us speak and write in English.

**Time-bound**: This goal is to be completed every week until the end of semester exams.

Middle of semester questions

**What notable actions have you done to work towards your goal?**

During English classes, we are often asked to find references for our assessments. I have been finding articles which will help me with the research summary assessment for the DCP class. A lot of the time, I don’t know the meanings for a lot of words in these articles. But I write down 5 new words every week into my word bank. I have also asked my teacher which words they think will help me the most. My teacher has told me that some of the words I put in my word back are too high level. I also make sure to practice the words I put in my word bank. I try to use them in the research summary.

**What notable actions have you done to slow your progress?**

For the first couple of weeks, I was reading without a dictionary. I copied everything into a translator and read that. I also wrote 5 new words into my word bank, but I still needed to translate everything into Chinese to understand. I asked my teacher what I could do and she suggested I use the words in my word bank more in class. I also ask my teacher if I’m using my word bank words correctly. I think the translator helps me understand the information in the articles. But I need to do more than just use the translator to improve my vocabulary.

**What can you continue to do to work towards your goal?**

I can continue to practice using the new words in my writing and speaking during class. I can also ask my teachers if I’m using the new words correctly.

**What are some things that could slow down your progress in the future?**

Using just one way to learn new words. I used to just use a translator. Now I practice new words by reading different definitions in different dictionaries. I also use new words more. Even if I use the new words in the wrong way, my teachers help correct me.

End of semester questions

**How have you progressed with your goal? Have you achieved it? How do you know you have achieved your goal? If you haven’t what do you still need to do?**

I can see that I have progressed with my goal. I know this because I don’t need to use a translator as much when I am reading articles. My teachers have also been telling me that I have been using my word bank words correctly in class. I got my scores for the research summary assessment and I am very happy with my vocabulary scores. We have not completed our DCP poster yet so I don’t know what scores I will get for that, but I have been asking my teachers about what they think about my vocabulary and they say they can see an improvement.

**What are some of the things you did which helped you work towards your goal?**

Asking my teachers for help during the semester has been a big help for me. I made sure to use new vocabulary during class when teachers asked us to speak or write. I also asked my teachers to tell me if I am using my new words correctly. Sometimes I didn’t understand a dictionary definition of a word or the translator did not translate the word well. When this happened I would ask my teachers to explain the words and give me some examples of how I could use the words in sentences. I think asking the teachers to help me allowed me to work towards my goal.

**What are some of the things which made your goal difficult to reach?**

A lot of the words in my major are very difficult. Sometimes even my teachers didn’t know the meaning of the words I asked them about. I also think I started to forget some of the words I put in my word bank at the start of the semester.