

Unit 6 Reflection

In this unit, I continued work in the literature review activity with the deadline in Unit 7. At this point in time, I found that I was struggling immensely to determine *what* to settle on for this course's final project, because the e-book material point out that a taught master's does not attempt to add anything new into the academic world, but rather draws upon existing literature. This point has remained in the back of my mind for several days as I attempt to tackle the literature review and the research proposal which impacts the final project. It seems to me that there is a disconnect: insufficient information provided by University of Essex Online and my own understanding. So, I set about to source information (ironically) from universities across the world to better understand *what* a "final project" is and how to settle on a topic.

I reached out to this module's tutor in a desperate attempt to resolve the mental war between the requirements for a literature review, and those of a final project that must deliver a computing artefact¹. For the literature review, I settled on implementing machine learning to predict traffic accidents. I chose this topic because I believe that there is tremendous potential in this area to automate vehicle communications and thereby remove the need for human attention when driving on roads. True, the rise of autonomous vehicles is here, however, they are not mainstream and one hundred percent reliant. We still need people to drive from point A to point B. And people cause accidents, not vehicles. Given that governments have no interest to *help*, instead seeking ever-inventive ways to *punish* and destroy, it falls to researchers and businesses to bring automated solutions that help the very drivers regulators and law enforcers disdain.

Based on the feedback received from the module tutor, I was renewed and inspired to look at the literature review task from a different angle; as well, to look at the research project proposal in a new light. Perhaps I *might* look to deliver a project based on research literature review gaps? Perhaps not, I don't have a desire to try inducing accidents just to prove some aspect of the literature. Regardless, writing the literature review is rather thrilling and enjoyable (ironically) because I enjoy taking disparate topics, ideas and thoughts and then merging them into a set of coherent thoughts that lead to a specific observation or outcome. In a way, this approach matches with the ideas of *inductive* and *deductive* reasoning.

¹ For example of the thought process used to try resolve the plethora of topics, see the additional artefact "Resolving Topic Conflicts" in the eportfolio.