I was really surprised while thinking about last few weeks or more precisely my first month of university and how I developed myself. By the end of the first week I had already realised that things were really different from foundation year. During foundation years every module felt so slow and boring but only in to first week, even though I missed my induction, I could feel the pressure. Well, I would not blame it on missing induction but rather on my constant wish to be the perfect, or more precisely it can be flagged as Atelophobia(Atelophobia, 2017).

As I am always serious with my coursework, I started from the very first week. Without any plan I jumped into my coursework, soon to realized how bad I was struggling with my coursework and how stressed out I was. I was feeling left out and dumb. Due to my panicking even after working for nearly 13 hours right after my lectures I couldn’t get anywhere. Then again I had to go to my next lecture without any sleep. As, expected I fell sleep, halfway through my lecture. During a lecture with Mr. Nigel Burlow we were told that sometimes we as human don’t realise when we actually need rest. Probably this was another thing that I had to change. But, the biggest problem was yet to be solved, and that was actually finishing my course- assembly language. I later realised that rest was a mandatory need for us students. After a lecture with MR. Martin Beck, where I got advised about how to actually approach a hard logical problem. But, still to my misery, I was far from figuring out my first difficulty and that was not only my coursework on x86 but actually my time management.

Finally I called the person from whom I always take an advice when I am stuck- my father. I explained everything to him. I even told my mom that how I am on the verge on destroying my dream of being a scientist, how it seems such an immature decision to me. My parents really calmed me down saying that it’s still early for me to decide a career and to even give up. I was so motivated when they told me to follow my dreams and I will succeed for sure. But, still my situation was really bad, I asked for help for any one I could it was more like any port in a storm. I went to meet my personal tutor, my mentor and even to PALS sessions just to learn what I could do with my coursework.

I started to motivate myself, well I can mark that probably this was my first professional skill development. Then I started to make plans in order to face my difficulties. And to my first savior I would say was how we were advised by Mr. Martin Read with SWOT analysis, I actually thought of using it. Soon, I started to find a lot of problems with me. I figured out that I need to make better use of my time. I need to rest and take break at times in order to be more productive during my active hours. Furthermore, I found out understanding a problem rather than jumping straight to it actually allows us a fresh look towards the problem. Soon, I could see everything was getting easier for me. I was feeling more calm, I had more time to take rest and breaks in between my work. My difficulties with managing time was now a child’s play for me. I learned to how to actually loose and give up just to rise from ashes and actually achieve my success. When I was actually working hours after hours, I ended up nowhere. But, now with rest and more time to think about a problem didn’t only enhanced my critical thinking but also made me more realistic and punctual. I was getting really progressive, at one point I never thought of finishing my coursework but now I was actually planning to finish it a week earlier.

As, I was working in team where only one person was backing me up while other two wouldn’t even care about the presentation itself, I just realized my new obstacle. Even though it was an obstacle for me but it was obviously increasing my leadership skills. Also, it was helping me with my decision making skills. I could realize that when they were missing on their duties and me and my other friend backing up for it actually made me more dependable and a reliable person. Thus, I had more patience and flexibility. Finally, we delivered a really good presentation. I would say, my struggle to overcome my problem with time management, panicking or even thinking about by coursework actually enhanced my personal skills (Doyle, 2017).

I learned that working hard is not the only option here working smart is the main thing here. I was so pleased that I learned all this at my first month. With great remorse for the first time in my life I submitted a coursework without my perfect touch. Only, if I realized it sooner then probably I could have finished it all but maybe not perfect- as nothing can be perfect which is also a big lesson I have learned. I was a stubborn and never giving up perfectionist but now I am much calmer and give everything a better look and try to handle everything practically. I learned from my mistakes and hopefully in future I not stay abide by what I have learned but also stay away from doing the same mistakes.

Well, I would agree with my parents that it’s actually really early to decide my career but still I will pursue my dream to be a scientist and actually create the perfect bio-bot(Anand, Yakut Ali and Saif 1879-1888) which can associate with genetic editing tool CRISPR CAS-9(Broad Institute, 2017).I will really prove that computer still has a lot of ground to be researched, still a lot to find about computers which can actually help humans(Inf.ethz.ch, 2017).And to aim myself towards that I have to be more ethical. But, for that I need to find out the actual skills needed to be successful and what I learned from last few weeks I have actually realized working smart and planning before taking any decision, or solving problems helps out a lot. So, I have decided to already find out how most scientists were. I would try to pick up their characteristics while have a bit of my own touch. I try to do a lot of brain storming things which will increase my problem solving abilities (Brotherton, 2007). But, mostly I need to work on my stress management skill and probably on my communication skills. Thus, I thought visiting the Writing Café of our university and also study books on persuasive communication to improve my communication problems. Moreover, I also thought always planning everything before taking any action and focusing on solution from different angles to a problem rather than rushing it, this will surely increase my power of reasoning which is turn will help me brain storm enhancing my problem solving abilities(Kent.ac.uk, 2017). I think developing these skills will not only take me where I dream of but also increase my professional skills. But, obviously my personal skills also developed last few as when I look back at my feeling at the very first week compared to now- I am a better learner and also I can think under peer pressure. Well, thinking under peer pressure at least saved my presentation. I hope the personal skills that I have adapted from last month and the things that I figured out I needed to workout, if I can actually work on them, hopefully one day I will be the person I dream of.

***Self- SWOT analysis***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No./Types | Strength | Weaknesses | Opportunities | Threats |
| 1. | Hard Working | Self centered | University Employability | Interview or communication skills |
| 2. | Strong willed | Anti- social and introvert | Demand for IT Personals | C.V /Resume |
| 3. | More Focused | Less Flexibility | Doing an Accredited course by BCS | Knowledge about job market or opportunities |
| 4. | Satisfaction by studying or achievement | Easily tensed | Pebblepad | Networks/ Connections |
| 5. | Determined | Time- management issues | Lots of University facilities | Competition and pressure |
| 6. |  | Issues with working smart | Friendly Lecturers | Heavy Smoker |
| 7. |  | Visionary |  |  |
| 8. |  | Balance time with work and leisure |  |  |

**Bibliography**

1. Atelophobia. (2017). *What is Atelophobia - Atelophobia*. [online] Available at: http://atelophobia.info/what-is-atelophobia/ [Accessed 18 Oct. 2017].
2. Anand, Sandeep V., M. Yakut Ali, and M. Taher A. Saif. "Cell Culture On Microfabricated One-Dimensional Polymeric Structures For Bio-Actuator And Bio-Bot Applications." *Lab Chip* 15.8 (2015): 1879-1888. Web. 20 Oct. 2017.
3. Broad Institute. (2017). *CRISPR*. [online] Available at: https://www.broadinstitute.org/research-highlights-crispr [Accessed 18 Oct. 2017].
4. Brotherton, M. (2007). *Five qualities required to be a Scientist...*. [online] Mike Brotherton: SF Writer - Science and Science Fiction. Available at: http://www.mikebrotherton.com/2007/11/05/five-qualities-required-to-be-a-scientist/ [Accessed 21 Oct. 2017].
5. Doyle, A. (2017). *List of Personal Skills*. [online] The Balance. Available at: https://www.thebalance.com/personal-skills-list-2063763 [Accessed 21 Oct. 2017].
6. Inf.ethz.ch. (2017). *Areas of Research in Computer Science*. [online] Available at: https://www.inf.ethz.ch/research.html [Accessed 18 Oct. 2017].
7. Kent.ac.uk. (2017). *Problem Solving Skills*. [online] Available at: https://www.kent.ac.uk/careers/sk/problem-solving-skills.htm [Accessed 21 Oct. 2017].