**Academic Skills Self-Evaluation**

(Semester 1, week 11)

Complete the self-evaluation table below to rate the skills needed for academic study. You should give an honest rating and examples from Semester 1 for each question so that you can identify areas that you have improved over the semester.

**End of Semester 1**

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| **Academic skills** | **Self-rating**  5=good; 1= very weak | **Examples: Where and when you used this skill** |
| *e.g. Managing deadlines* | *4* | *Completed course work and revised for my exams at the same time.* |
| 1. Managing deadlines | 4 | Submitted my completed work for most of my modules before the deadline. |
| 2. Being self-motivated and able to persevere with difficult tasks | 3 | Good standing in dealing with difficult tasks, but I could have done better. |
| 3. Expressing my own ideas and opinions | 3 | I expressed my own opinions in some modules; however, speaking in English to express my ideas was kind of challenging. |
| 4. Finding out information from different sources (research) | 4 | I found some good sources for my ELSS Essay and for my presentations for all modules. |
| 5. Reading complicated texts to find the gist of what they are saying | 3 | EAP’s reading daily exercise was difficult at the beginning, but with practicing and extending my vocabulary range; it became easier to find the gist in some complicated texts |
| 6. Being able to select what is relevant from a source | 5 | Yes, everything is relevant to my research and presentation’s topics. |
| 7. Comparing different opinions and deciding which are the strongest arguments | 3 | I pointed out some great reasons in some argumentative essays, but I could have come up with stronger reasons that could counter the question’s statement. |
| 8. Being able to weigh up the ‘pros’ and the ‘cons’, the good points versus the bad | 4 | It was easy to point out the advantages and the disadvantages |
| 9. Writing things in my own words (paraphrasing) | 3 | I struggled with paraphrasing throughout this semester, but I got better. However, my paraphrasing need some work. |
| 10. Being able to argue my point of view and giving good reasons | 3 | I had good reasons in my argumentative essay tests, but they weren’t good enough to counter some arguments. |

**Semester 1 Review of Progress**

(Semester 1, week 11)

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| Think back over Semester 1 and the targets and goals that you set yourself, areas which you have improved and the feedback that you have received for all assignments. Then write a 250 word reflection upon the first semester.  Your reflection should include:   1. Some reference to targets that you set and if/how they have been achieved 2. Examples of how you have improved your academic skills by using teacher feedback from all modules and assignments 3. Comparing your Academic Skills Evaluations from the beginning and end of the semester 4. What were your strengths and weaknesses at the beginning and end of the semester? (use the Academic Skills Self-Evaluation) 5. Things you are pleased with from Semester 1 6. What will you need to improve in Semester 2? |

I have improved in this semester especially in the note taking, writing descriptive essays and giving presentations. The improvements have been achieved due to the plans and targets that I put in the beginning of the semester. For example, the feedback from my teachers gave me a vision on the fields that I need to improve during the semester. The feedback from the first presentation that I did for this semester showed me that I need to have a good eye contact and try to focus on the points that I have on my slides. Also, note taking skill was a serious problem for me since I could not catch what is important and what is not. However, by practicing and writing the important information, made me better at taking notes. The difference of my skills at the beginning to the end of this semester was significant. My strengths were at listening and writing good essays; my weaknesses were speaking and taking information in a note form. However, at the end of this semester I have found that was becoming better at taking notes and giving presentations. In order for me to improve my English skills more, I need to sit up goals to achieve for the second semester and one of the main goal is to write a primary report and good structure of an argumentative essay since I am going to have those two major assignments for the next semester, and the report will be an individual assignment.