In this assignment I want to focus on:

1. Grammatical range & accuracy
2. Improve my evaluation
3. Vocabulary range & accuracy

PhD, or Doctor of Philosophy, is the highest academic degree awarded by universities in many countries. There are many requirements a PhD student must satisfy in order to earn the PhD degree in time. These requirements may vary depending on several factors, however some of them are universal, such as proposing an original academic research project.

Those requirements, that could be time consuming, are not the only issues a PhD student must address in order to complete their PhD. Students may confront serious obstacles while pursuing their degree. For instance, problems with supervisors, loss of motivation, and a massive amount of research related obligations are some factors that may affect PhD candidates. Considering all, to complete a PhD program in time is a complex topic.

Table 3 provides data related to the median of the completion time of Computer Sciences PhD students. As can be seen, the time needed to finish the PhD has changed to smaller values between the periods of 2004-2008 and 2009-2012, from 7.66 years to 7.58 years. That said, it is worrying to see that women not only spend more time than men to achieve this goal, but they are also spending more time than before. In the first period, both women and men spent approximately the same amount of time, while in the second period, women spent 8.25 years and men spent 7.33 years.

Another important difference is illustrated in Table 3. It shows that students considered to be minorities take longer to complete a PhD, with a difference of about 2 years. However, unlike the gender category where the difference between the groups grown bigger between the periods, the data suggests that the difference in time between the periods for this category is relatively small.

Not surprisingly, the prestige of the doctoral institute seems to have a high influence on the completion time. Table 3 indicates that students from very high research active universities take 7.33 years to complete, while students from high research activity institutions spend more than 1.5 year to complete the PhD. Students from other universities take more than 2 years when compared to the students from more prominent universities.

Table 3 summarizes some information about the time doctoral students in Computer Science need to complete a PhD program in the United States. The data in Table 3 is limited, preventing more conclusive affirmations. For instance, it is not clear whether the difference in both the gender category and in the underrepresented minority status is related to a diversity issue, to a leave of absence, or to part time occupations.

In addition, the data from the last category of the Table 3, related to university status, does not lead to any stronger conclusion. However, in this case the difference in time showed may have some explanations. Here, only three possible reasons are discussed. They help to clarify why students from distinguished universities conclude PhD faster. The first one is the pressure that students may feel when performing research there, leading them to study with more dedication. The second one is that better supervision could be given to students, since the advisors may be more capable and prepared. The last is that more relevant research may be provided, which facilitates PhD students to complete their requirements. Since the data is sparse, further research must be conducted to better understand this issue so that the reasons might become clear.