

Task 9: Reflective Letter

Old Dominion University

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## **Part 1**

Throughout this course many aspects of the curriculum have aided in learning the material this semester. The aspect that helped the most throughout the semester was the tasks that were completed throughout the entirety of the semester. Each task followed the curriculum that was being taught during in-class lectures. When it came time to complete the tasks, while some were still challenging, the basic skills were fundamentally there and could be applied to real world examples. The tasks involved a wide range of aspects of program evaluation, use of technology, and abilities/real world knowledge as a student. It was these tasks that made all the hours of lecture and reading material come together into a full circle for optimum understanding. In addition to the completion of the tasks throughout the semester, the guest speakers and real world examples used by the professor also aided in the ability to learn the material better. By listening to the real world examples and applications of the curriculum being taught, it not only made the information real but also easier to understand and potentially be able to do one's self in the future. Listening to current professionals talk about the field and the application of program evaluations made entering the field of Human Services more attainable than just classroom lectures.

## **Part 2**

- Where your learning is demonstrated in the course?
  - The best place to go to show where my learning is demonstrated in this course would be all of the tasks I have completed over the semester. Each task showcases one of the learned skills taught within the course and how

I as a student learned and interpreted the information in a real world application setting.

- What areas did you feel you were most successful, or improved the most?
  - The areas that I feel that I improved on the most other than the new information taught in this course, was in my writing alone. The different steps within a program evaluation and the many tasks completed over the semester covered many different writing skills. Skills that I may not have been as developed on prior to this class.
- How do you see this course's content intersecting with your field career?
  - Program evaluation is an aspect that is in almost every area of life. For example, the university's student opinion surveys. In another real life example, my job as a desk receptionist, as an employee I complete my own self-evaluation twice a year in addition to my boss completing her own evaluation of me as an employee as well as all the employees. Program evaluation is an aspect of the Human Services field that is a universal thing. It is also a necessary aspect of the workforce that is completed whether you are an employee being evaluated, or someone coming in and completing the evaluation themselves. The class opened my eyes as to how prevalent and important program evaluations are to the world.
- Have you been able to apply concepts you have learned in the course to what you do at work or in other courses?

- The skills taught in program development have helped in many other classes. In particular, in Non-Profit and fundraising class, the semester long project where we had to reach out to a Non-Profit agency complete an original idea fundraiser to raise money for the agency. Throughout the course of the project I had to identify the stakeholders and understand the population to effectively perform a fundraiser for the agency.
- How, when, where and why you might use this information or skill in the future?
  - How/where/why I might use this information and skill is in my future workplace. As an employee in or out of the Human Service field will be involved in many different evaluations that the company/agency I work for undergoes. Knowing how the evaluation process goes and what is required of not only the evaluation but the job of the evaluator will only make the evaluation an easier process to go through. Evaluations are an inevitable part of joining the workforce; myself as well as everyone in the world with a job will undergo an evaluation at one point or another.