

Reflection Essay

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I've learned a lot of valuable information and skills from this course that will help me all throughout the careers I choose in life. A lot of the information from the modules two, five, and seven presented in this course, specifically helped me prepare the most. There were course readings within the modules that were also useful to helping me learn about these skills and about how I've applied them. I got a lot of valuable knowledge from sources like the Portfolio Keeping for Students article in Portfolio Keeping from module two. There was a lot of data where they talked about how to actually make a portfolio and the steps to take to make sure the process goes smoothly. I reflected back to this as well as the resume module a lot already and they have been beneficial to me being successful.

Research

Over all of the skills I've learned and improved upon this semester, I believe my research capabilities have changed the most. This is primarily due to me not knowing much before going into college. I didn't know what a research database was and would always just rely on Google to complete research. There was one class call Introduction to Digital Literacy that drastically helped me do countless assignments. The required courses that were available all required extensive writing and to graduate I needed to improve my research capabilities. I've chosen three artifacts to represent the skill to show how I've improved over my final semester that I've written from the same course. It not only showed how I improved this semester but over the course of my entire college career. This is due to the other research papers I had to write to showcase artifacts during my other years. The artifacts shown from the research section, however, drastically improved my research capabilities. The Acceptable Use Policy Implications paper showcased my ability to find

information about a topic that has limited data. This is a very stable policy that has very little ethical implications besides the risks of monitoring and surveillance on individuals. Because of this I was unable to find a variety of data online and was required to do extensive research. If I had not improved this skill before this class, I would not have been able to accomplish that task. This theme also applied to the other two artifacts found under this section due to them being about the same topic.

Analysis

Another valuable skill that has drastically improved over my college career has been my analysis expertise. There have been many data and article analysis papers I've had to write which required me to do condense information. A class that specifically required me to do so was IDS 300W by Dr. Pete Baker. This course helped me analyze different research papers in order to formulate my own. I had to complete multiple papers synthesizing information that I found on research databases. My topic was about climate change and how it specifically affected wild elephants since the 20th century, and this was to make an analysis of a topic that hasn't been done before. I learned a lot of valuable insights on how to do analysis from the modules in the class and that was the prerequisite that got me to where I am today in terms of writing.

Another artifact that was crucial to improving my analysis skills was the Critical Analysis: Parasite paper from my time in Professor Brandon Shenk's Film Appreciation class. This was one of my more challenging papers I had to write due to the detailed analysis I had to do on the movie. I learned that there are so many different details to look

for in movies that are specifically put in by the director. The slightest change in camera angles even has a significant meaning. I mentioned a scene in my paper describing that there were many film elements such as hearing the characters heartbeats, and it was used in the matter of a two-minute shot. This detailed analysis that I had to undergo helped improve my ability to analyze a different form of data in the form of media.

Creativity

The final skill that I have improved upon is my overall ability to be creative. I normally am not a very creative person and kind of just go with the flow most of the time. Because of this I have struggled all throughout my life on my ability to do creative writing or formulate ideas. I've showcased these artifacts because they provide detailed explanations to how I've been able to solve this problem. The first artifact that I'm mentioning is Should you get Vaccinated Against Covid-19, and this is primarily because it was my first time creating a research topic. Normally this would fall under the research category because it's a research paper, however, the Coronavirus pandemic was a newly oppressing matter at the time and there was limited data on the subject. I had to be creative with how to explain my position on the topic without showing aggression to the opposition. I am able to do this skill because of that entire semester I took in English class by Professor Trapani. The other artifact Letter to the Portfolio Reader was my first time experimenting with a portfolio and describing my experience. Relating the Electronic Portfolio class I am currently taking has shown me already how much my creativity has improved when it comes to my writing capabilities.

The different soft and hard skills that I've learned over the course of my college career have drastically improved. When I first started attending Old Dominion University, I barely knew how to write a paper correctly and this was primarily due to being only online in my last two years of high school. I ultimately needed to learn how to complete more challenging course work because I lacked these skills. The most important skills that have improved are creativity, analysis, and research and this was from a multitude of information learned in many writing classes.

The interdisciplinary research method I learned from Pete Baker in IDS 300W helped me identify how to look at my skills in alternative perspectives. This helped me understand how to do my coursework and ultimately improved each of the skills. When looking back on the course specifically, I had to look at many angles to figure out the solution my problem. This was a challenge that I was able to overcome by following the modules and learning how to do extensive research. When I was able to finally research on data bases successfully, I felt I had access to an immense amount of information I couldn't reach before. Combining alternative perspective when doing research can drastically show different angles and ultimately lead to a better outcome. I feel that doing this type of research is important in my field because hearing why hackers do the things they do is very important. Without hearing their approach, a solution besides a technological one is never available. Cybersecurity is a topic that is always adapting newer technology and to understand information better, hearing multiple perspectives is needed to address these complex issues.