

Mid-Semester Reflection (75 Points)

Due Date: Week 8

Assignment Submission: Blackboard. Save your attachment as a Word Document, or PDF and upload it to Blackboard. Last Name_First Name

For this assignment, please reflect on the following questions. Please provide a paragraph-length response to each of the four topics, making sure to answer all the sub-questions.

1. Study habits

a. How much time do you spend studying for each class every week?

To be completely honest with you, I don't really study. I only 'study' when I am doing the assignment and that's it. When I am in the process of completing an assignment, I only look up things that I do not understand from the power points that are posted on blackboard. So far however, the only class that I actually take notes for and keep track of those notes is sociology as I have to take a concept quiz after each chapter we go over on Connect McGraw Hill which lasts about an hour and fifteen minutes. Contrary to what you might think, I do the notes and the concept quiz in one sitting and then never touch those notes unless I forgot something. The other class I take somewhat notes for is chemistry as I know I struggle with some of the topics. I also sometimes take history notes during class just to be attentive, but then I don't go back and look at them and end up losing the paper it was written on.

i. Do you need to put more time into studying, and for which class or classes?

As my grades are decent with the amount of studying I have done, I wouldn't need to as my problem is that I do not turn in my assignments or I turn them in late. Just like this one, it completely slipped my mind as the week went on, especially since I thought today was Wednesday and not Friday in turn missing my Thursday classes and any assignments that were due. However, since I am trying to get into these competitive programs, I should start studying more in all my classes, not just the ones I believe need it the most. Though it is hard to break a habit that's been going on for seven years, I could at least try a little harder.

b. Where do you study?

Most of the time, I find myself inside the Perry Library on the second floor almost everyday as for some odd reason my laptop in my dorm stopped

connecting with the school's wifi, so if I want to use it, I have to use my personal hotspot that drains my battery and often slows down or speeds up depending on the day. However, when I am at the library I feel that I get more work done as I am forced to only do that as there is nothing around me to deter my attention.

i. Do you often find yourself distracted while studying?

Not really as when I am completing assignments that I know I have to get done as I don't have the time to do it later, which most times is always the case, I tune everyone out for a good hour or two before I answer anyone's text or updates. I also put in my headphones and listen to chill and smooth rnb on a low sound level as to drown out any background noise that may get in the way of me focusing. I also put my phone face down on the table and leave it on a soft vibration so if it goes off for a long time I know that it is either something important or a group me conversation about class assignments.

ii. What could you do to remove these distractions?

As stated before, I have little distractions when it comes to completing work that needs to be done. I have already created a way for me to do my work without losing attention. It also isn't that hard as now we are in a covid living situation and I have been virtually cut off from the usual social engagements that would've attracted my attention before. But now I am lonely in the sense that I do almost everything by myself as to limit the contact I have with others on a daily basis. However, there are moments when I would engage in a small activity such as going out to eat with some friends, visiting ones house, or just being around people and enjoying the time we have together as I will cut myself off from most physical conversations for at least two weeks at a time as long as somewhere in those weeks I just have time to relax.

c. What time of day do you study?

All the school work I do is usually always in the morning as most evenings I am going to work until 10 where I feel tired and just want to get sleep so I can wake up early in the morning to have enough time in the morning to get school done before I become an adult and go to work.

i. Do you feel focused and alert at this time?

At first, I do not feel alert and focused and awake unless I physically get up and move around to get ready for the day to get my blood pumping. This usually takes about twenty to thirty minutes as I would have to force myself out of bed for one, then get ready, and finally leave the dorm to

go to the library or just actually start my work. The hardest part is just getting out of bed, after that the rest begins to come easy.

2. Learning style

- a. What specific study techniques do you think work best for you? How do these vary from class to class?

I think taking notes and then challenging myself with small quizzes or questions to try and recall that information works best for me because it forces me to process the information that I am gathering and format it in ways that are easy for me to understand and remember after I take them. These may vary in class as some ways to recall the information may be through quizzes, little worksheets, matching games, or little khan academy youtube videos where i try an answer and then go over it with the khan academy teacher on the screen.

- b. What new study techniques have you tried this semester based on what you have learned about learning styles?

To be completely honest, the only thing that is different about this semester than all the other semesters I have taken in my years of life is that I actually switched up my working locations and am now doing school work in the mornings instead of the evenings, late at night, and during other classes.

3. Transition to college

- a. Has college been what you expected?

I don't even know what I expected college to be like. I guess I believed it to be a place where everyone is living and connecting to one another and having fun. But then again that is the case for some people, just not for me as I am taking all the precautions I can to not catch the 'rona. I thought that my roommate would be enough to keep my going through these times and that I would at least have one person that would constantly be there when I wake up and when I go to bed, but I don't because she moved out less than a week she's been here because all her classes were switched to online and she would rather be home than here. I completely understand this as I was thinking about doing the same thing, but I wanted to see what it would be like living independently. It's fine by the way, I like it very much, I just thought there would be more people to talk to.

- i. In what way is your college experience different from what you expected?

For one, all my classes are online and everything is rushed as we missed basically the first month of school and some teachers didn't even tell us before what textbooks we would be using so for the first two weeks of classes I was missing a lot of work. Second of all, there aren't a lot of

things to do on campus and I barely even know what types of clubs are even going on at this point. It just seems dead. And I know that it isn't worth it, but I would at least like a chance to see these things.

- ii. What has surprised you about your experiences so far this semester?
To be completely honest, I barely had any experiences this semester. It's always been wake up, get breakfast, do school, get lunch, small break, work, sleep, repeat. I do like how ODUSac and ODUhomecoming have tried to reach out and do things to help boost the morale of the community. And honestly, it's been very helpful keeping my spirits up. But other than that, nothing really surprised me.

- b. *If you live on campus:* What has been your toughest challenge with moving away to college? Easiest challenge to overcome?

The toughest challenge has been earning the money to continue living on campus. The move and everything were just fine as I'm not too far from home and everything I need is just a phone call and a drive away. The only challenge that I see is communication would be lower than usual as I would be focusing more on my studies than my relationships with my friends and family.

- c. OR *If you commute to class:* What is the toughest challenge with commuting to campus? Easiest challenge to overcome?

4. Connecting to campus

- a. Name one problem or challenge you have encountered this semester, and which resource(s) at ODU you have/can utilize to assist with this situation.

One challenge is my motivation to do the work in a timely manner. Honestly, this is an easy fix, it's just a reoccurring fix that won't go away. This usually happens, when I feel like I have too much on my plate and not enough time to do everything that I want to do. I know that it'll be fine once I get this break to slow down and rewind. To just simply relax without worry.

- b. Is there a friend, roommate, professor, advisor, or group in the ODU community who has helped you so far this semester? If so, how did they help you?

The only thing that really helped me were my groupme chats where we would talk about upcoming assignments, different ways to do the assignments and take notes, and just talk to one another as if we were in person. This helped alot by letting myself know that I am not the only one going through this tough semester, there are others just like me who are doing the same.

- c. Have you attended an interest meeting for a club? Why did you decide to get involved or not get involved?

I have heard nothing about any clubs on or around campus. I haven't heard of any club fair or any people just going out and propping a table up or just speaking about it in general. The most I heard about clubs are the signs in the web talking about if you have a club come here and spread the word. And I have received no word from anyone. Not the random emails, not any signs or posters, and not even a person.