

# FIRST YEAR CORE COURSE LEADERS' COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE TOOLKIT

## FIRST YEAR COURSE LEADERS TOOLKIT ITEM

*Evaluating our teaching*

THE USQ  
CoPs PROJECT

Faculty of Arts CoP  
and  
Faculty of Business CoP

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**USQ** UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND

### Evaluating our Teaching – Reflection as part of students' assignment

**Teacher:** Bernadette Lynch

**Course:** MGT1000 - Organisational behaviour

#### Rationale

To get students to think about their learning, particularly as it relates to essay writing in the course. It is also designed to help markers assess students' performance in the essay itself. Finally, however, it is designed to provide the team with feedback on students' experience of the assessment so that they can improve the course.

#### Activity

As part of their assessment, students write a 750 word paper about their experience of essay writing in the course. It has no particular formatting requirements beyond clarity and purpose.

#### Sample text

Excerpt from assessment guidelines in course StudyBook [over page]

## Assignment 2

Written assignment 2

Length: 750 words  $\pm$  10%

Weighted: 20%

Due: 16 May 2008

### Learning diary

Write a 750 word paper about your experience of essay writing in this course. This paper should explain:

- what in particular you were trying to improve in your essay writing. It can also identify those areas of your paper where you feel more work is needed.
- which parts of essay writing you found hardest and which aspects you found easiest.

The feel of the paper should be about what **you** now **know** about essay writing that you did not know before you started this course, or what parts of essay writing **you** can now **do** that you could not do before the semester. You must submit this assignment in hard copy and upload it onto the Study Desk. If you have difficulty loading it onto the Study Desk please contact the course examiner.

### The learning diary has 3 purposes

1. It should help you to clarify the academic writing skills that you have learnt in your study this semester. It is like an auditing process. There are two forms of assessment in any academic endeavour – the mark you are awarded by the sponsoring institution and the mark you give yourself. You may achieve a low grade in this course but feel justifiably proud because in your assessment you have learnt an incredible amount!
2. The diary can assist with the assessment of your essay by giving the marker some information about your view of the assignment. It may assist the marker with providing feedback.
3. The diary entries should also be of assistance in the ongoing development of the course as it can give the examiner an impression of your experience of study. We have a very diverse student group in this cohort in terms of people's nationalities, circumstances, age, work history, academic history and we always strive to improve our study materials. One way to do that is by understanding the student experience better. Your diary cannot be used to disclose confidential information about other people or organisations. It should not be used just to air grievances – because neither of those is related to what you have learnt from this course. While constructive criticism is welcome, misuse of this process in terms of vindictiveness is not welcome and will be marked down.

### How should the learning diary be structured?

The paper can be fairly loosely structured. The written expression (that is proof reading, grammar, sentence structure, sequence of ideas) need to be clear enough for the reader to understand. However, the genre or style of the paper is more conversational than an academic essay. You do not need to reference your source/s if you choose to use any. No sources were used in the example provided.