

E-portfolio (GE Foundation)

Name: [REDACTED]

Student number: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Course: GE Foundation Course

Assignment: E-portfolio

Name of tutor: [REDACTED]

My Individual Essay

Here is my individual essay discussing the role of religion in the modern city.

Link of the individual essay²

My Reflective Entry

I am [REDACTED] and I am studying in the BEd program with the major of General Studies for Primary School students for the first year. My aspiration after graduation is, I can become a teacher and able to help the students enjoy learning as Hong Kong students lack interest in studying, and the standardized tests have limited students' characters. This is the first time for me to write down my feeling towards a course and I feel very excited as I think the way of studying in University is totally different from before and the things I have written down here can recall my memory and record something down that may be useful for improving my teaching skills if I have the chance to become an educator.

One of the things I appreciate from my tutor is he kept telling us to be creative to do the group presentation. I have never heard about "being creative in your work" from my teachers in my school life but I think it is a general problem of students as most of the Hong Kong students lack creativity. During the first lesson of General Education tutorials, the tutor told us not to read aloud the information when we are presenting. My group presentation topic is "Climate Change". To my group members, this is an easy topic as we have learned about climate change since we are studying secondary school, so we are confused that we do not know what additional information should we talk about and how to present it creatively. I am very grateful for the tutor providing us some interesting ideas and leading us to finish the group presentation. Finally, we chose to list out some daily products which were helpful or harmful to the environment and tell them how they will affect the environment in order to raise their awareness of protecting the environment. This experience is innovative to me and I will try to learn from it. However, it is said that all the face-to-face lessons are changed to online lessons. Although it is more convenient for us as we do not need to go out, it is more difficult for us to communicate freely with

1 [REDACTED]

2 [REDACTED]

classmates and the tutor. Moreover, we voted to finish our presentation through video and send it to the tutor directly, so we cannot listen to other students sharing.

For the themes of the General Education Foundation Course, I think they are most interesting and related to our daily lives. I am keen on some themes that related to personal values such as “Public Space” and “Ethics and Morality” because they are some good topics for everyone to reflect on themselves and build up their values. When the lecturers are sharing their ideas, students will try to think about how these ideas relating to themselves. This process will help students to understand themselves better. While some of the themes are educational that help students to reflect on our living environment such as “Climate Change” and “Basic Law and One Country, Two Systems”. These themes can teach us to understand and learn how to improve our living environment. In summary, I think the themes in the General Education Foundation Course are very suitable for most of the University students as these topics are useful for them to understand themselves and the world is functioning, and they may help students to find out and set up their life goals. For me, these themes provide me to comprehend the topics from other perspectives that I have never thought about, so this course not only can help me gain knowledge but also develop my skill of multi-angle analysis and thinking.

I also think that there are still some advantages to online teaching as I think it can help students to learn actively. Due to the coronavirus, the face-to-face lectures are changed to video, and students need to answer a few multiple-choice questions that represent the students’ attendance. Therefore, students need to watch the video themselves in order to get the answers. This is one of the indirect ways to motivate students to learn actively and it may raise the opportunities for students to find their interests on the lectures’ themes as they are more focusing on the lectures than face-to-face lessons which do not required to answer questions for attendance. For the tutorial classes, when the tutor is discussing the last lecture’s theme, he will open a discussion board with some related questions for us to comment on them. Therefore, we can record our ideas and discussion on it, and we can always know others’ ideas through the discussion board after the lessons. Moreover, when the tutor tells us to have a discussion, we can use the breakout room to discuss which I think can raise some shy students’ confidence. As our tutor does not force the students to open the camera, so students will not become too nervous and they will be more confident when they speak. Although we cannot communicate and share ideas directly in the classroom, I think it is still a good try for students to compare the effectiveness between online teaching and lessons in the classroom, but I prefer learning in the classroom more as the teaching and discussion is more effective, and I think some students may cherish the opportunity of going to the campus for learning and meeting with friends.

In conclusion, the General Education Foundation Course has improved both my knowledge and my skills as I can gain knowledge through the lectures, I can also be taught some skills that are useful for teaching on the tutorials. I think having a discussion in the class is important for learning because students can find out the questions themselves instead of waiting for the teachers to tell them directly. At last, I hope that if I am able to become an educator in the future, I can apply the knowledge and the teaching skills to the primary students so that they will not feel bored or meaningless while studying and I can feel enjoyable through teaching and playing with students.

My Group Presentation

Here is the PowerPoint slide of my group presentation with the topic of "Climate Change", focusing on the products affecting the environment.

Link of the PowerPoint slide³

