Aug. 19, 2016

Assignment #2 - Discussion Forums self-assessment

This self-assessment is the one of last two course assignments, this forum started in the second week and lasts until week 7, during which, I have participated with responses and initiated new discussion topics. This self assessment is a report of how did I contribute to my classmates learning as well as to my own learning. It is complementing other course activities and assignments for a better learning experience and outcome.

I continued to learn through the participation in the discussion forums and the various topics offered. My classmates enriched my learning with their knowledge and experiences of which added a great value to the overall learning experience. I was touched with many postings especially those who speak out of their personal experiences rather than just summarizing a paper. One of the topics I feel has changed the way I think about things, is the use of Facebook to connect with students and that we need to think twice before we use this platform and to address privacy issues appropriately before we get stuck into privacy conflicts.

During the last few weeks I contributed to the discussion forums with over 35 postings, an average of 5 postings per week. These postings are a mix of original postings and replies to others’ postings.

One of my favourite postings was about the dying languages, and my reply turned to be emotional to me as I looked back at myself to see what opportunities I have missed if I passed a language exam. In addition, I also looked at the differences that I would have seen in my kids if I passed that exam. Although we may resent an incident and we feel angry and mad about it at one point of time because we don’t know what the future is hiding for us, it is usually for our own good but we don’t see it until it happens. My discussion response is quoted below:

*There are many political barriers to learning, not only language driven, but if language works well as a barrier, then let it be.*

*I was one level below the required to pass the language exam conducted in the British Council in Jordan in 1993 as a requirement to my immigration application to Australia. Years after this sad event in my life, I was able to pass and get the points of the IELTS for the Canadian Immigration application in 2002. However, it took very long years until I step on the Canadian soil in 2009. But imagine if the first exam was not a barrier in 1993, I would have been in Australia for quite over 20 years now, and that all my children were born Australian and that they would not have that English language barrier at all in their lives. Anyways, everything happens for a reason, my kids learned their mother language first (Arabic) then they learned English of which will be their main language for the rest of their lives, but at least they know their ancestors’ language of which I am really proud of.”*

The discussions took place in this forum were rich with all the participants knowledge and dedications to their learning and the learning of others. One thing I would do differently next time is just to commit myself with at least 30 minutes every day if I want to learn the best out of it. However, I am not saying that I didn’t commit myself this time to this forum, it just happened that almost all the working shifts I picked were 12 hour shifts and with these long shift my creativity and thinking are at its lowest.

On this assessment, I feel more confident with evaluating myself as I mentioned earlier, I was actively engaged in almost all the open discussions, and I have posted more than 3 web 2.0 tools in the web 2.0 tools area. Based on the above, I would give myself a 25/25 (100%) on this assignment. I might not be perfect, but I tried my best to fulfil the assignment’s criteria and to master the rubric for all the little details.

Finally, I must admit that the learning obtained in this course exceeded my expectations for learning in one single course. I think the way this course is offered is what made it so unique to achieve the best learning outcome. I thank you Brian for your feedback and for your support throughout the course. Thank you.