

1. What independent learning have you undertaken this week?

Please list the different kinds of independent learning have you done this week. Please indicate why you did it, and how long you spent doing each activity.

Project work / designing interview questions – required as part of group work project for core module - 4 hours

Reading and making notes on 2 chapters from recommended text – suggested by not essential – but enables me to contribute in seminars as I feel more confident - 2 hours

Taking photos of public artwork in my area for next week's seminar – starting to get ahead as I know I will be busy this week – 1 hour

2. Please describe and evaluate one of these independent learning activities in depth.

What did you do? With whom? Where and when?

What was good / bad about the activity? What did you learn from it?

For the project on public reactions to street art I had to write some interview questions to ask random people about 3 different artworks of our choice (sculpture, water feature, etc).

I did the questions on my own but it's a group project and one of the others is going to actually ask the questions. So after I wrote the questions I need to ask my group to look at them and see if they thought they were OK.

I finished the questions last night (Sunday) but I started them on Friday. We've got the seminar this afternoon and I thought I'd see my group there as well and we could have a chat about it.

It was quite good in the end but to start with I found it hard to think of what questions to ask. The lecturer just said think about what you want to know about people's views on the artwork. Then my boyfriend said, think of that sculpture in the shopping centre, you know, the one everyone touches. Don't you ever wonder why they do that? That got me thinking and I wrote down loads of questions then. I tried some of them out on my boyfriend and we had a laugh. I haven't asked any questions about the artist and I suppose I should but not sure how. My group will

probably have some ideas and then we've got the seminar so I can ask the tutor if I'm on the right lines.

Not sure I learnt much about art from doing this. I suppose I learnt it's harder than you think to write interview questions.

3. How did you feel about doing the independent learning activity described in question 2?

How did you feel about starting the activity? How did you feel while you were doing the activity? How did you feel at the end?

I chose to do the interview questions rather than doing the reading or asking the questions for the project. I thought this was going to be the easiest and quickest. It took longer than I expected cos I didn't know where to start. I did a bit of it with my boyfriend and we had a laugh. But by the end I thought I should have done the reading cos I don't really think I got much out of it really. I mean I didn't really learn anything about the artists. I've got to rely on someone else in the group who is doing the reading to do that so I suppose I felt a bit annoyed with myself for taking the easy option. Cos it wasn't that easy either.

4. What kinds of independent learning did you find most useful this week, and why?

I think the reading was the most useful, although I found it the most boring, it was like real work cos I was learning stuff I didn't know before. But not sure if I will remember it. I hope it will make it better in the next seminar as I'll have something intelligent to say – if I remember any of it.

5. What did you find most difficult about learning independently this week, and why?

What was difficult? Why was it difficult? How did you overcome these difficulties? What else would have helped?

Starting with a blank sheet! It was like, ask what you want to know. But how do I know what I want to know? Sometimes I feel like the lecturers aren't teaching us and it's up to us to work it out. Some people just know stuff, but I always feel a bit like I'm behind other people. I got over it by working with my boyfriend, he always gets it before me. I would like the lecturers to give us some examples.

Working with other people you don't really know. I suppose that's something that's good to learn, but I would have liked it better if we could choose who we do group work with. I mean if they don't pull their weight, I lose out. It could have been better

if we had some training in how to work together and how to deal with difficult people!

The other thing was not knowing if I was on the right lines. I know the group are supposed to help but I'm not sure they would know anyway. It would have been good if we could just speak to a tutor or send in what we've done so far and get a bit of feedback, like those Apps for homework that my little sister uses at school.

6. If you have any other thoughts regarding your independent learning this week, please use the space below to tell us about them.

I hope I've answered this OK. Is this what you want?

I don't think im a very good student, as I can't always be bothered, and I don't always get what we are supposed to do. It was clearer at school, and I was a good student there.

It's quite good doing this diary – helps me to get my work done!