Journal: Professional Goals Part II

Student's Name

Institutional Affiliation

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After learning more about being an effective communicator, do you still agree with your initially identified communication strengths? Why or why not? Are there any strengths you would like to add?

In my initial journal, I highlighted strengths such as effective listening and non-verbal communication. Reflecting on the entire course, I can see that these strengths have only deepened. Structured peer interactions and feedback sessions have emphasized the value of understanding over mere response. Through various group projects, I've discovered a significant new strength: adaptability in communication (Schulze & Pinkow, 2020). This skill has been crucial in managing diverse team dynamics and achieving collaborative success. During a major group presentation, my ability to adapt my communication style based on the audience's feedback helped clarify complex points. This was appreciated by peers and instructors, showcasing my enhanced capability to tailor messaging effectively.

After completing your course assignments and activities, have you started to address any of your identified areas of opportunity? If so, how? If not, what will you do to address them in the future?

Initially, I identified conciseness and clarity as areas needing improvement. Throughout the course, focused exercises and feedback have helped sharpen these aspects, particularly in written assignments where brevity was necessary to maintain reader engagement. The persuasive writing assignment was instrumental in practicing these skills, as it required me to distill arguments into clear, compelling points without superfluous information. To continue improving, I plan to participate in a workshop on technical writing next semester. This will further refine my skills, aiming for precision in professional communication.

Based on your more in-depth career exploration in this module, identify a specific career goal and describe the steps you will take to achieve it. (For example, "My goal is to get a job as a social media specialist at an innovative organization. To reach this goal, I will . . .".)

My goal to become a UX writer for IT companies has been reinforced. I now understand that the blend of technical knowledge and user-centered communication is critical to success in this role. To achieve this, I will enroll in a specialized course on UX writing and gain practical experience through freelancing (Al et al., 2024). Building a portfolio with sample projects by the end of the year will help showcase my capabilities to potential employers. I plan to complete the specialized course over the next six months, undertake parallel freelance projects, and aim for a full-time UX writing position within the following year.

References

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