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**Centre for Open and Lifelong Learning**

# **FEEDBACK TUTORIAL LETTER**

**2<sup>ND</sup> SEMESTER 2020**

**ASSIGNMENT 1**

**Introduction to Communication 1B  
(ICO512S)**

Dear ICO students,

Overall the performance of many students was very good and above average. Many of you succeeded in applying the 6 steps of the research cycle to a real-life example. Here is the feedback of the tasks:

### **General comment**

This comment is for you if you didn't succeed in getting 55 and above. Before starting to write up the assignment, always read the instruction carefully until you really understand what you are supposed to do. High light key words. In this case you should have understood that you have to imagine a situation at a workplace or within the family regarding "Communication". Unfortunately, some of you hastily wrote up something that did not relate to the field of Communication and thus did not receive marks.

### **Title of research**

Most of you followed the instructions and guidelines, which resulted in you formulating a professional title. Title of research project do not always have to be complicated and long. The title should tell the reader what the study is about in the best way. If the reader sees a title that he doesn't really understand, chances are he might not even look at your paper.

### **Quality of submissions**

Many of you have shown that you can work independently with confidence. However, I perceived some of your submissions as hastily done or pulled of an existing paper, even writing it in past tense. Some even produced results, which was not part of the question. The main aim was for you to show that you understand and can apply the 6 steps of the research circle to a communication problem.

### **Research cycle**

#### **1. Research questions**

Many addressed their question to the topic and that was fine. Some of you asked test-like questions, which can easily be answered by looking up the information in a book. For that I could not award any marks. Very few asked questions that had nothing to do with the title.

#### **Example:**

Communication problem at work/family:

1. What are the Communication problems?
2. Why are there Communication problems?
3. How can Communication among employees/within the family be improved?

## 2. Research statement

The research statement is actually an explanation of what the research problem is.

### Example:

Communication among employees of company X often results in conflict. This causes mistrust and low productivity. This study wants to investigate what types of problems there are, the reasons and how it can be improved.

## 3. Sub problems:

This step seemed to be challenge for a number of students. Sub problems are problems related to the main problem:

### Examples:

1. Employees form company X come from diverse cultural backgrounds.
2. Not all employees are fluent in English.

## 4. Research methods

Most of you chose the correct research method. The most likely for Communication would be a questionnaire or interviews as you want to find out about people's opinions and feelings and perhaps suggestions for solutions.

## 5. Interpretation of data

Here many had problems. But his is how you should have answered it:

The interpretation of the data should relate directly to you research questions.

### For Example:

I would find out/The study would find out:

- **what** the problems are ( you could have mentioned a few, but it was not required; such as not understanding the whole message, interpreting the messages differently, not communication, etc.),
- the **reasons** why there are problems (cultural background, level of English, level of education, etc.)
- What they **suggest** on how to solve the problem ( opinions of the participants, such as, speaking slower, offer an English course, etc.)

## 6. How you would present the data

Her e you could mention

- Presentation: Power point presentation to the department
- Hons. Thesis
- Academic publication

I hope that you all find this feed back useful. If you have any specific questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 061 207 2193 during office hours.

Kind Regards

*A. Tjiramanga*

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