FEEDBACK TUTORIAL LETTER

1st SEMESTER 2019

ASSIGNMENT 1

PRINCIPLES OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE USE
PLU411S
Dear PLU Students

Thank you all for completing your PLU First assignment. A total of more than 300 assignments were marked, where you all scored between 50% to 80%. Only few scored less than 50%. Congratulations to those who scored 50% and above and for those who obtained less than 50% please do not give up.

Most students completed all the section except a few who skipped certain questions unanswered. Dear students it is advisable to answer all the questions, and in case you do not understand, seek clarity from the other students or the lecturer.

Positive observations

Some students produced outstanding work, and it shows how much effort one has put in. Some of the students typed their work, which is appreciated as their work appeared neat, legible and easy to follow. Furthermore, others also wrote neatly with spacing between ideas and using connecting words to help the tutor understand. I would like to comment you for that. Well done!

However, there are some shortcomings which need to be addressed and attended to as soon as possible to avoid unnecessary loss of marks. These include spelling errors, punctuation errors, grammatical errors, plagiarising information from the internet sources for section 4, writing an essay instead of one paragraph and misinterpretation of the questions.

Also, although the students did not lose marks for the font sizes, they used to type their assignments, some students typed their assignments using too small font sizes or too big font sizes which made their assignments to look unprofessional. Therefore, dear students, please note that the recommend font size is size 11, and the font style is Calibri.

Spelling and grammatical errors

It was noted that many students do not end their answers in the grammar section (section 2) with punctuation marks which made some students to lose marks. Please note that punctuation marks are as important as words thus cannot be omitted in a sentence. The correct spelling of words and the correct grammar is very crucial at the tertiary level. One crucial aspect of why you should take this seriously is that you lose marks if words are misspelt in the grammar section (section 2). Moreover, a misspelt word might have a different meaning in English.

It is advisable for students to proofread their work before submission to avoid some errors. You could also take a break and come back to edit your work the following day or a few hours later. At times when your brain is exhausted, you may overlook some mistakes. It is therefore essential to relook at your work when your brain is fresh again.

Neatness and tidy work

Sometimes students do not put in enough effort to ensure that their work is neat. It is important for your work to be neat and legible. Remember that when a tutor marks the work of a student, the students are not present to back up their writing. It is unfair to the student if they get a wrong mark for an answer that the tutor cannot see; in the same vein, it is also unfair for the student to expect a correct mark when the answer is not legible. Kindly proofread your work and ensure that every word is legible.

General observations

Section1
Students did well in section one. However, for question 1 – 10 some wrote the correct option in full instead of giving the letter of the correct answer only. Avoid giving the whole option especially in the exam to save your time.

Section 2

Students did well in section 2. However, some misunderstood question 4. Dear students, question 4 required you to state the tenses of the given sentences. Eg. a) present simple tense. Also, it was observed that some students are writing "present tense" or "Past tense" as their answers. Please note that there are no tenses known as present tense or past tense unless present simple tense or simple past tense.

Section 3.

Most students did not score well in this section. Therefore, you must revise all the question in this section as they always come in the examination. You must know a thesis sentence which is a sentence usually at the end of the introduction which specifically tells what the essay will be about. A comma splice is two or more sentence joined together as one and just separated by a comma. A run-on sentence is two or more sentences written as one and not separated by any punctuation. A sentence fragment is an incomplete sentence. Please read more on the content covered in Section 3. When asked to identify transition words give transition words only not the whole sentences where they appear. Please note that Question 6 was cancelled; as a result, the total assignments marks became 96.

Section 4

This activity aimed to test whether the students can construct a well-structured academic paragraph. An academic body paragraph starts with a topic sentence which tells what the paragraph will be about. The topic sentence aims to create interest in the reader to read the whole paragraph. The topic sentence is followed by supporting sentences which clarify the point introduced in the topic sentences. The supporting sentences are many. After the idea is well explained and supported by supporting sentences, you end the paragraph with a concluding sentence which shows that the idea is completed.

Advice:

Students need to read their study guide before they write the assignment. Also, the students need to take time to do their work. They must go through their works at least three times before they submit. Do not rush through your work as that made you to loss makes for errors which you could have corrected if you have taken time to proofread your work.

All the best for your next assignment and never give up as it takes trial and failures before one succeeds.

Thank you

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