Chike Achudume

PROV 504

**Pathway Reflection Essay**

One of my favorite quotes from the late prime minister of the United Kingdom Sir Winston Churchill says “I am always ready to learn, however I am not always prepared to be taught.” When I first came into George Mason University, I was a bit uncomfortable and had some level of doubt if I was in the right environment to learn and study. But as time went by and lectures began, I realized with the help of Accelerated Introductory Graduate Study for International Student (PROV 504) course, I could actually make out a strategic plan and develop some necessary tools needed to succeed in graduate school.

The Time management plan (TMP) was my first assignment in my PROV 504 class, I was surprised because it was the first time I heard about this. But as I worked on this assignment, its significance became very clear to me that I needed this TMP to be very successful in graduate school. It helps me see what is coming ahead and make appropriate adjustment in my study to meet up incoming assignments due date, lecture time, family time, and also leisure time. Figuring how much time one could reasonably spend on each assignment, considering other responsibilities can help schedule time appropriately (Hjortshoj, 2009, p.4). Reflecting deeply, I am happy that I have developed the knowledge and skill of making a TMP that will be used to keep me on track throughout graduate school and afterwards.

However, one of my weak areas that need improvement is developing my critical thinking skills. Critical thinking is very important in Western education and this is needed to evaluate information, ideas and use clues to analyze which is more correct as there is belief that there are many truths in this form of education (Badke, 2003, p.24). In my major class which involves policy writing, I am developing my critical thinking skills and this has shown on my papers. Although, far from been perfect, I am focused on this as it’s a part of Western model of education.

References

Badke, W. (2003). The skills you need to succeed. In *Beyond the answer sheet: Academic success for international students* (p. 4). New York: IUniverse

Hjortshoj, K. (2009). Orientation. In *The transition to college writing* (2nd ed., pp. 4-5).

Boston: Bedford/St. Martins.