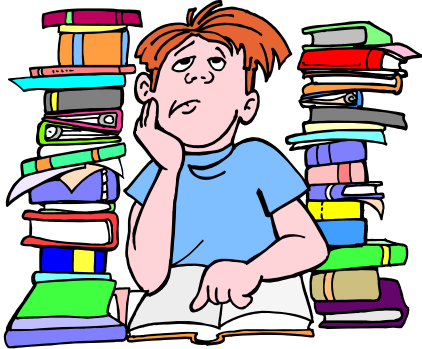


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Process analysis: An explanation of the rationale



When you are engaged in a particular task it is easy to focus on the end product and to think that as long as you get there somehow, the way you did it doesn't really matter. However, this does not leave you much scope for making actual improvements to your technique – because you don't know which part needs changing. We are for that reason asking you to engage in exploring and analysing the processes that you, as a individual, go through when undertaking particular tasks. All the tasks are relevant to some aspect of the enquiry process, so you will be furthering the work on your project whilst undertaking your process analysis. You will be expected to draw on your process analyses in your contribution to the group discussions at your weekly meetings as well as in the final ['Critical Review'](#) assessment.

There are five such process analyses and you will start working towards the first one in week 1. You will submit a brief (300-500 words) account of your process analyses at fortnightly intervals, starting in week 2. This account will be sent electronically to a commenter who will offer you comments on each analysis.

In commenting on the process analysis itself, the facilitator will not be awarding you a mark for how good you are at the task – rather s/he will be there to help you explore in greater depth how you tackle the task in hand, as well as this *type* of task; and how you can become more effective. Please note that the comments will not tell you how you *should* do something but may, where relevant, help you by offering you a range of options from which you may wish to select one or two to try out for yourself.

At the end of the semester you will have an individual assessment which is worth 50% of the overall grade for the module. This individual assessment – the Critical Review – will be based on your critical evaluation of the skills and capabilities that you have developed throughout the module. You will be expected to use evidence from your process analyses, and from the comments offered on them, in assembling this critical review. **Please note that although the process analyses are not marked, you are required to submit them. Failure to do so will result in a deduction of 3% per process analysis off your final mark for the Critical Review.**

The table which follows shows completion dates for the various tasks which make up the work of this module. Please note that process analyses will

normally be due in for comment *before* the completion of the task – to optimise their usefulness to you.

Task No	Nature of task	To be submitted for comment by
1.	Read a research article	Week 2
2.	Identify a potential research question	Week 4
3	Identify a suitable methodology and relevant data gathering technique	Week 6
4.	Explore ways of analysing and displaying data	Week 8
5	Consider writing of group report	Week 10