Learning Online: Studying and Reflecting

Get the most out of online learning by reflecting and sharing your learning with others.

If your students are completing the whole of this course online, then they can complete useful and engaging activities, or a test based on the content covered.

You can choose for your students to complete individual tasks by themselves or encourage group work. Though you may have your own ideas about what your students can do with the course content, we've made things easy for you by suggesting some activities that you can submit to your students below. Choose whichever suits your students and needs.

Each task has student-facing instructions you can use (found later in this pack).

Individual student tasks taken from the course

Reflection: Students write a 500-word reflection on what they learned from the course, including anything they might do differently now as a result of their learning, and anything additional they found out from their own reading around the topic. They submit this reflection as a written essay, podcast or video.

Research task 1: Students choose one of the top ten learning tools from the list and research how it is used for learning, what features it has that make it effective, and why people like it. They create a presentation with this summary and submit to you.

Research task 2: Students find three pieces of online content that interest them and produce a mindmap of what they learned. They then use this to write a reflective summary of the three pieces of content they explored. Both the mindmap and reflection are submitted to you.

Group tasks based on the course

Research task: Split the class into groups based on their preferred way of learning: video, listening, doing, collaborating. Each team then summarises the benefits of their preferred method and creates a list of top tips for getting the most out of that learning method. Each team creates a presentation for their learning method – either a poster, slideshow or brief video to share with the rest of the class.

Test

You can use the test questions listed in the student instructions below as a short assessment to enable your students to demonstrate what they have learned on the course. The assessment has 15 marks in total.

The questions have been designed to be flexible and open. The questions indicate which steps the answers can be found on. The marks available reflect the likely length and complexity of the answer expected, and how many points they are likely to make. For example, a 5 mark question might reflect a longer, more complex question, or one where they have asked to describe or explain a number of elements. Depending on the level and ability of your students, you can decide how you wish to award the marks, so they are appropriate for your class.

Each question suggests which steps the students may wish to return to answer the questions. You can decide if you want to include this information when you share the assessment with your students.

Additional support

You can use the How to use Futurelearn guide with your students to get started. If you have any more questions, please refer to the FAQ section.

Student instructions

Reflection

Write a 500-word reflection on what you have learned from the course. It should include anything you might do differently now because of what you learned, and anything else you found out in your reading around the topic. Submit this reflection to your teacher as a written essay, podcast or video.

Research task 1

Choose one of the top ten learning tools from the list below:

1. Youtube
2. Google
3. Powerpoint
4. Twitter
5. LinkedIn
6. Google Docs
7. Microsoft Word
8. Wikipedia
9. WordPress
10. Zoom

Research your chosen tool and create a short summary of the following:

- How it is used for learning.
- What features it has that make it effective.
- Why people like it.

Your summary should be no more than 500 words long and can in any format you choose – a written essay, a poster, a slideshow, a video or a podcast. Submit this file to your teacher.

Research task 2

You will be researching a topic of your choice and creating a mindmap about what you found. You will also write a short reflection on your learning.

1. **Identify your topic**

What would you like to learn about? This is entirely your choice, so you should pick something you are interested in. Keep the topic quite specific, so that you can focus. Ideally, it will contain some aspects that people don't entirely agree on so that you can think about the differences in opinion you might encounter.

For example, you could pick:

- an academic topic, such as an historical event or development of a scientific idea
- a key issue for society, such as nuclear power or animal testing
- a cultural idea, such as the analysis of a book or television programme.

Once you have decided on your topic, reflect on what you already know about it, and what you would like to find out. This will help you find useful information and focus how you read, watch and/or listen to it.

2. **Find three sources of information**

Once you've identified your topic and what you already know, start to research it further. **You should only use three sources of information for this task.** The materials you find can come from a variety of places – use the suggested links on Step 2.3 of the course.

3. **Make your mindmap**

Use the tips on Step 2.5 to help you create a mindmap of what you've learned.

There are online tools to help you create a mind map. Some of more popular mind mapping applications have free trial or educational versions. MindGenius, Smartdraw and Edrawsoft are popular choices. Alternatively, you could draw it by hand and photograph it.

4. **Reflect on your learning**

Use your mindmap to produce a reflective summary of the three pieces you explored. Aim to write no more than 150 words. Use the tips on Step 2.6 of the course to help you write your reflection.

Submit your mindmap and reflection to your teacher.

Group research task

You have been grouped together by your preferred learning method. Each team is going to create a presentation about their learning method that includes:

- a summary of the benefits of the method
- a list of top tips for getting the most out of that learning method.

You may find it helpful to watch the video about effective learning on Step 1.6 of the course and look at the section relevant to you on Step 1.7.

Your presentation can be in any format – a written essay, a poster, a slideshow, a podcast or a video. Your teacher will make your presentation available to your peers to help them find out about other learning methods.

Test

Complete the assessment questions below to demonstrate your understanding of the course. You can refer back to the course to find the answers or more detail as you need to. You should not however share your answers with other students.

Your answers should be written in full sentences and be appropriately detailed. Make sure you read the questions carefully before starting to answer. Each question shows how many marks are available – use this to guide how much detail or how many points you need to include.

The questions also indicate where you can start to look to find the answer. You can also include information from other steps if that is relevant.

1. How has education changed to include more online learning? (4 marks) [Step 1.3 and 1.4]

2. What are key things to think about when planning where you will work online? (3 marks) [Step 1.6]

3. What are two ways to make notes? Which is your favourite and why? (3 marks) [Step 1.10]

4. What is Kolb's learning cycle? (3 marks) [Step 2.7]

5. Using an example, explain how keeping a learning log will develop a skill. (2 marks) [Step 2.7 and 2.8]