

# Assignment 7: Bonus Assignment

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## Experience Report (optional)

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If you participated in one of the work integrated learning experiences, in lieu of this assignment, you can submit a 500 word experience report on what you did, who you worked with, and what you learned that relates to the topics in this course.

## Academic Reflection

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This is your 7th assignment, and we take your top 6. So this one is somewhat of a bonus. If you're happy with your assignment marks thus far, then feel free to skip this one and focus on your term paper. But if you do complete this assignment, it can be used to replace your lowest mark from A1-A6. Be warned though, while this assignment is a bonus, it won't be free marks. We will be expecting you to take everything you've learned thus far, and really produce insightful responses.

### 1. Criticize the course

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CSCD03 is meant to be a “capstone” course. It's geared towards students who are nearing the end of the time at UTSC and are almost ready to graduate. In this assignment, we'd like to ask you to take some time to reflect on the course, and your undergraduate education in general, and think about what worked and what didn't.

#### **Reflections on this course**

As a 4th year discussion course, CSCD03 is probably different in format to other courses in which you've participated. The focus has been shifted to presentation skills and research, as well as classroom discussion, with little or no formal lecture-style teaching. Write a short explanation of how you felt about this format, what worked for you and what didn't. In particular, focus on the following question:

*If I had full pedagogical control of CSCD03 in future, how would I design/run it?*

#### **Reflections on your degree**

Now that you are almost done with your undergraduate career, you can look back on your time at this university and reflect on the positives and negatives of your experience. Write a short explanation of

what you feel worked and what didn't for you, and what you feel works and doesn't work for your fellow students. In particular, focus the following question:

*If I had full pedagogical control of the Computer and Mathematical Sciences Department at UTSC, how would I design the CS specialist programme?*

You may choose to focus on either or both of the above questions, and approach the topic from whatever angle you think will best reflect your own sentiments. We have not provided any word lengths or formatting instructions, as we want this to be more about honest feedback and reflection than formal writing assessment. Unlike previous assignments, we do not require you to do any research or cite any external sources (though of course, you're free to do so if you wish). However, simply saying "the course was good" or "I'd have fewer assignments" won't cut it there. We're looking for real thoughtful feedback here.

Have fun with this one. We really just want your honest opinions and insights.

## 2. Criticize an argument

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Pick a topic from a presentation in which you were not involved. Take an argument made by the individual/group, and refute it as thoroughly as you can. Start with the references included on the presentation slides: Do they live up to the CRAAP assessment we learned about at the beginning of the course? Then move onto the argument itself: Do the facts really justify what they're being used to justify? Did the presenter(s) miss anything? Or did they misinterpret/misrepresent some of the data? Note that this is not an opportunity for ad hominem attacks. You're not criticizing the presentations of the presenters, you're criticizing their research and their argument. Pretend that they will be reading this (they won't, don't worry) after you've submitted it, and be ready to defend their position, so you have to really try to make your criticisms as logical and research based as you possibly can.

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It should also be noted that simply writing about how charming and witty your course instructor is will not get you any bonus points. Even if it is a well established and verifiable fact