

Student Testimonials for Common Units 2009-2011

- A pastoral approach: supporting students learning by being responsive and empathetic
- The benefit of gaining academic and graduate attribute skills
- Usefulness of Online communication tools

1. A pastoral approach: supporting students learning by being responsive and empathetic

“You are the Subject Coordinator for CUC100 "Academic Literacies". I would like to thank you for organising this subject and its study materials. I thoroughly enjoyed the weekly emails. They are interesting, informative and educational. Many thanks!”

“I just wanted to say thank you so much for this semester it's been my favourite subject :) And also thank you so much for emailing every week and getting our marks back to us always so quickly! Makes a big difference those weekly emails! Thanks again”

“Thank you to you and all of your team. Of all the units I have done, this has been the smoothest administration wise. The other common unit Northern Perspectives was also fairly good, but the way the common units are structured and administered are far more professional than all the other units I have done. Responses to emails are always prompt, the unit information is explained in a straight forward way and does not contradict itself in different places. The common units have direct links to grades on Learnline that the lecturers actually use. All marking is prompt and comments relate directly back to the assessment criteria. All the lecturers give the same answer to the same question and that consistency and prompt professional advice from all the staff in Academic Literacies makes this unit enjoyable. I don't know how you keep your statistics but I guess this professional attitude is reflected back in your pass rates in this subject. I give you 95% HD, but I somehow think you have had practice! ”

“Ok, firstly I would like to thank you for the extension on the annotated bibliography, if only my other lecturer was so compassionate. I will be submitting this COB today 28/04/2011. ”

“I have found the level of communication from CUC staff higher than the other subjects and make every effort to ensure you are up to date, the weekly emails are a wonderful addition to Learnline and I for one appreciate them and they have kept me on track.”

“I have really enjoyed this first semester of uni doing Academic Literacies. Thank you for your great feedback and support. ”

“Thank you thank you thank you !!! It's amazing how clear things look when they are pointed out by another. I cant say enough thank yous to you for the support you have shown me. I am really looking forward to becoming a teacher and doing as you do and helping people to learn. Your promptness on marking my work and forwarding my results to me has been great.(I just wish my other subject was so prompt I still don't have marks from early May hhhhhh very frustrating to say the least given that the semester is over) Anyway its been really nice working with you. Thanks again P.S Yahoo I passed my first subject. ”

“Thank you so much for your feedback I really appreciate and it really makes sense. I wish all of my tutors were so informative. Counting the days!!!!!!! ”

“Thanks heaps for answering all my queries. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all together for being part of my future success. With all the guidance and just the thought that you're there whenever we needed direction when we're kinda lost. I have really enjoyed this subject. I'm quite close to finishing my studies actually, hopefully I'll get it all done this year”

“Really, big thanks to you. Hope you're enjoying your career and will continue on encouraging a lot of students. Best of luck in your life, too! ”

“I take this opportunity to reiterate how impressed I am with the quality of external delivery of units through CDU. The prompt feedback from you and from all my tutors coupled with the flexibility I have been afforded has really made tertiary learning a possibility for me despite my current working environment. Thanks again for the feedback. I do appreciate it. ”

“I stumbled across my final essay result last night and I am still in shock. I just wish to say thank you firstly for granting me additional time to complete my submission and secondly for your kindness in your feedback, it was somewhat overwhelming. Having had a less than easy week; to read your comments was very uplifting, thank you. I thoroughly enjoyed the unit, lots to do but I think I learned a lot, in particular the computer side. Alas I will await my results from Fiona. Every university should include this foundation course in essay writing and computer literacy, which is what I voiced on my feedback form CDU sent me. I did 6 months of midwifery at UniSA but had to pull out due to placements and young child - not a good mix. They did not offer any foundation course whatsoever in essay writing nor computer literacy. I take my hat off to CDU, I am very impressed with their university content. Once again thank you for an interesting and well organised unit. ”

“Thank you for all of your support during this semester. It was a lovely introduction back into the academic world and your advice and guidance along the way has been wonderful. ”

“As we all ponder over are we doing the right things or not, one thing that comes to mind. We do have a pro active tutor who is always willing to help us on the right path. In my study group (4 of us) we all have different tutors and our CUC100 tutor is the only tutor that send friendly emails to his students. We are very lucky to have that as the other girls in the study group don't receive anything. We meet on a weekly basis and they await in anticipation for all the printed emails. Thanks for your helping hand and guidance. :) ”

“While my tutors in other subjects aren't very responsive, you however are a machine; a shining light to all us new comers and I don't think I would have got this far without all your support and continue advice and encouragement. Hope you get to have a break soon. Kind regards Kym”

“Thank you for being such a fabulous tutor for this subject. I have learned more about planning, structuring and writing essays in the last 12 weeks than I did in the final years of high school. The blog has been an excellent idea, and has given me helpful "tips and tricks" every day since you started it. I'm hoping other tutors in my future units are just as helpful as you have been- you have made starting "uni" much less frightening than I first thought, especially as an external student, you expect to be left to your own

devices. ”

“I just want to reiterate comments made by a number of other students - that is, how much I (we all I am sure) appreciate the effort you have put into supporting us through this course. You have truly gone above and beyond and the truth is many of us would have struggled a lot more without your assistance. So thank you!! ”

“Thank you for being such a wonderful tutor, you have made this unit be enjoyable and with your feedback and constant communication you have really set a precedent for what I think future tutors should be like as I'm sure other people will agree. If we receive as much support in other subjects as you have provided, I will thoroughly enjoy Uni and probably get more out of it than I initially thought. It has been easy to stay on task with your week by week guide of what we should be doing for the unit and the deadlines have been fair especially having assignments due on Sunday nights, not only does it give me the opportunity to go over my work but it also gets me out of watching car racing on tv with my partner every Sunday!!! Yay for CUC100!!”

“Thank you again for all your help and support not to mention prompt replies to emails and other people's blogs in order to help everyone. I have enjoyed the Unit in fact you have become a well mentioned name in our household, my partner even hopes you are still at the Uni when we all graduate! We all hope you are! Hope to cross paths again! ”

“Now that I have submitted all assignments for this unit, I wanted to thank you for your assistance and guidance throughout the CUC100 unit. You have always been very involved, passionate and have demonstrated a genuine care for your students and their success. It has been a very positive start to tertiary education for me and I am truly thankful that I was fortunate enough to have you as one of my lecturers. ”

“I would just like to say thank you very much for the semester, I really struggled with the move and have had a lot of difficulty finding time, however you were always there for support. I really appreciate your efforts and I apologise for any inconvenience I caused. ”

“Hi (Coordinator)

Due to my absence that week I did not receive the evaluation form and have only just remembered to contact you about it. If its not too late, I would be happy to fill it out although I can tell you now that I was very pleased with the CUC 100 course and found it extremely useful. I also have nothing but praise for my tutor. I'm guessing the form is to be done anonymously but I'm not afraid!!! The tutor was wonderful, helpful, responsive and reliable. ”

“I enjoyed CUC 100, and as a mature student who has been out of formal study for many years benefited greatly from the unit. ”

“I have found this subject extremely useful and will endeavor to improve as time goes on in my studies.
Regards Wendy”

“I just want to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support and encouragement. I've really enjoyed the subject. Its very well presented and supported and as an external student, I did not feel isolated from it all. Thanks again.....bit sad it's the last email from you! ”

“I've really enjoyed the subject and it's certainly helped me get back into uni after 15 years away. ”

“Secondly, I would really like to thank you for being you. You obviously have a passion for what you do and it shines through even via emails etc. Your nature caring and want for everyone to have a decent start at uni and helping us all reach our little academic goals is what keeps me going some days. I should have in reality applied to get experience credit for this subject, but now I am glad I did not, because I feel you and your subject have given me an extra edge and confidence. ”

The benefit of gaining academic and graduate attribute skills

“I also have learnt to apply thoughts and strategies from my mind to paper. Being able to explain concepts so others can clearly understand is a must in order to effectively communicate. Both these newly learnt and defined skills will be extremely useful in upcoming jobs.
I have actually found this unit very beneficial. I chose to 'get it out of the way' first up in case I didn't go back to it later, but am so glad I did as it has certainly prepared me for my other subjects now. It has taught me what to look for and how to interpret assignment questions etc - thanks so much for all your effort!
My husband felt that I should have left Academic Literacies until I had picked up more skills, as I seemed to be so frustrated, but I actually think that this is where you pick them up as I explained to him that the difficulty has come from other areas, (computer & USB failure etc.) not the actual tasks. He then said that he has noticed a change in my style of writing & my choices of words & the way in which I express ideas to people has improved also & he is a tough critic so that made me feel rather good today hearing him say that. ”

“I will take this opportunity to say that CUC100 is invaluable to those undertaking University for the first time. The Communications booklet is the best money i have ever invested in a book, it is very well written and very easy to follow. It will remain with me through the coming years as my referencing point. ”

“I have thoroughly enjoyed this unit and look forward to putting my knowledge from this unit into practice in my further study and workplace. Congratulations to you on a very well structured unit, I have had other subjects that are difficult to follow!! ”

“I just wanted to say thanks for all your encouragement during the past semester. As I think I said, my skills were very basic and certainly caused a fair amount of stress early on! However, this was a course that I was very keen to do, and I thought it was excellent for someone with the limited skills I had. I was a bit concerned at the start that it might all go over my head but the teaching and structure made it almost foolproof!! ”

“Thank you for your assistance and encouraging words throughout this unit. I found academic literacies very interesting and very helpful in building my knowledge and confidence in completing my studies in

nursing. ”

“Thanks to you and the tutors of CUC 100 I'm sure I will use the skills I have learnt not only for university study but also out in the workforce. I posted my final assignments on Learnline 31st May. ”

“I would like to thank you for your help and guidance over the past twelve weeks. I have enjoyed this subject very much, particularly the on-line forums and final essay. I read a comment in the text book from a student who was affirming the importance of doing the Academic Literacies subjects and I completely agree. This subject has provided me with the opportunity to gain many valuable skills to successfully complete my degree. ”

“I have been in external group 9 for Academic Literacies this semester. I have thanked my tutors but also wanted to thank you and confirm what a relevant subject CUC 100 is for students. I have learned a great deal from every element of this subject and will definitely be referring back to my text books for the duration of my degree. ”

“I am glad that this subject is a compulsory subject for Diploma in Languages otherwise I would have overlooked it. I had learned so many things and skills in this subject - how to find journal articles in databases, how to design an assignment coversheet, Powerpoint, etc. The study materials of this subject are very interesting and educational. I enjoyed the weekly readings. The 2 textbooks (Communicating and ICT) are my reference books now. I am extremely happy that I did this subject and hence my thanking you profusely for seeing me through this subject. ”

“It was a pleasure to take part in the survey, CUC100 is a great unit and the support we all received was over and above what I had expected from a Tutor, I was very happy to complete the survey - well done to a great team of people who made the unit enjoyable. It's easy to do the work and to respect deadlines when we know how much effort and support is available for students. Thankyou again ”

“You were up very early this morning; Thank you so much for your weekly emails and your 'availability', it makes the process so much easier and enjoyable. ”

“I have just handed up my last assignment and am wanting to do a summary of the course as I have enjoyed it so much. I have to say that my tutor has been just wonderful and I can't believe how much information she stores in that head of hers! She has been quick to respond to emails, more than willing to help out of hours, very attentive in class and really easy to follow. She certainly knows her stuff and I have found her one of the best lecturers I have had. So thanks for putting this course together and a massive thanks to my tutor for making it an interesting couple of hours for me; we had a good laugh whilst learning some invaluable lessons”

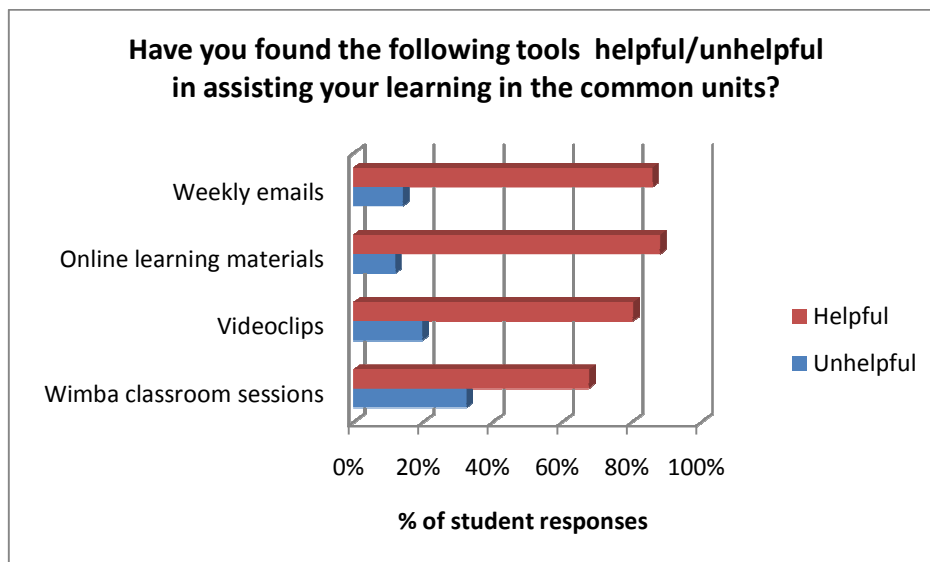
“Now that the semester for Academic Literacies is over, I would like to thank you for the assistance and support that you have given me through out the semester. I appreciate not only the rapid responses to my queries and questions, but also the way your responses were easy to understand. I found the course to be a good eye-opener, for the requirements and expectations of me heading into Uni, and I probably would of found Uni very difficult without this course, and in particular your assistance. So, once again, I would like to thank you. ”

“Many thanks to you and to your team....most enjoyable but challenging subject..thanks for all your support and, I have written VERY favourable comments on my subject assessment form sent to me by the university this week and now posted back..Quite a contrast to another subject I have just completed where I and my peers have not received any grades or any feedback about any of our work...and we finish next week. so many submissions but I have no idea of how I am progressing ..if I am progressing ,or what standards I have achieved? ”

“I have to say that I have really enjoyed this subject, as I had very little knowledge in writing essays (or writing in general) and computer skills. It has made things less daunting now that I have some skills in these areas. The feedback from my tutor's was very helpful also. ”

Usefulness of Online communication tools

In a recent online survey (2011), 282 students responded and indicated that they found the following online communication tools helpful for their learning:



Wimba and blogs

“The lessons I found most useful would be that of the researching component with Wimba sessions. Research enables us to make effective observations and alternately shapes the decisions we need to make.”

“I have been reading the group blogs and the coffee shop chat room and I do have to say, you have the patience of a Saint! There is no reason for people to fall behind working under a tutor who is very supportive! Thank you for your continuing guidance” Kind regards” ,...

“Hi, just letting you know I love the blog and it's informality, good to see how people feel about the process of studying online as well as the tips. Now... on with the assignment. ”

“Hi I just wanted to say thanks for the blog. It's been great. I'm sure all of the other students have found it helpful, and thanks for being a good lecturer. It's great having honest, helpful feedback and emails and questions answered so promptly. Thanks. ”

“I thank you and appreciate the obvious extra effort you have gone to for us as students. This blog has also been great... Cheers Mark”

“I think the blogs draw me back to the computer and keep me interested. I know I tried harder in this unit than i did in my other unit. My other unit felt like no one was interested, feedback was once from my assignment, there was nothing apart from that. It really made me not enjoy the subject as apposed to CUC100, I loved it because of the feedback and the communication. Feeling so isolated being a external student - the blog help me heaps! ”

“Thanks for all your assistance with this subject ... I have really appreciated the new forum that you have created and your prompt reply to my posting on the discussion board last week. ”

“I think all the external students appreciate your commitment and making sure we "help ourselves".”

“Thank you very much for the voice message you left me, sorry I missed the call. I feel a little more confident now in my essay, as the way you explained it is what I have tried to achieve. Thank you for the offer of an extension but I have completed my essay and will submit it this afternoon. ”

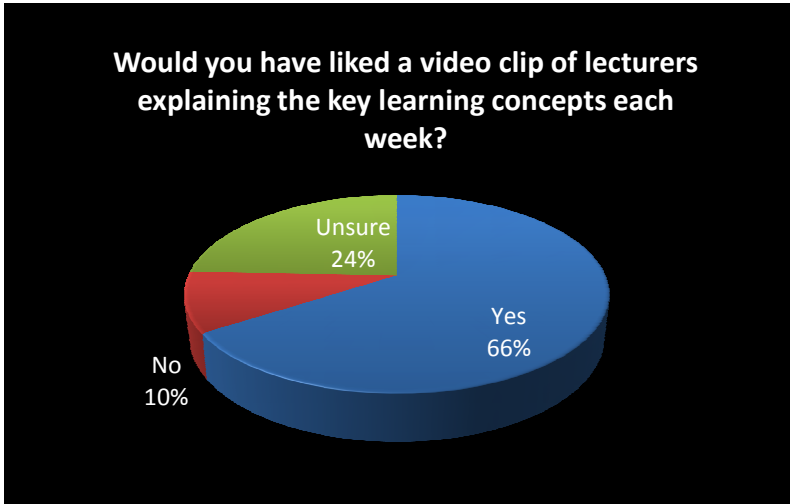
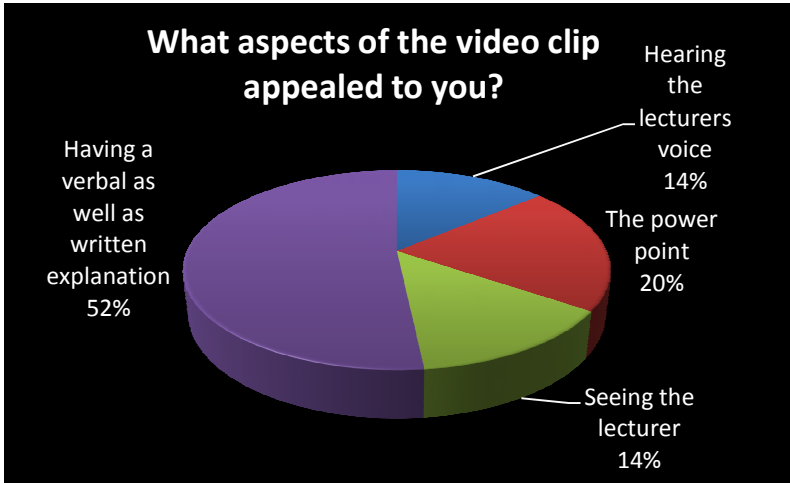
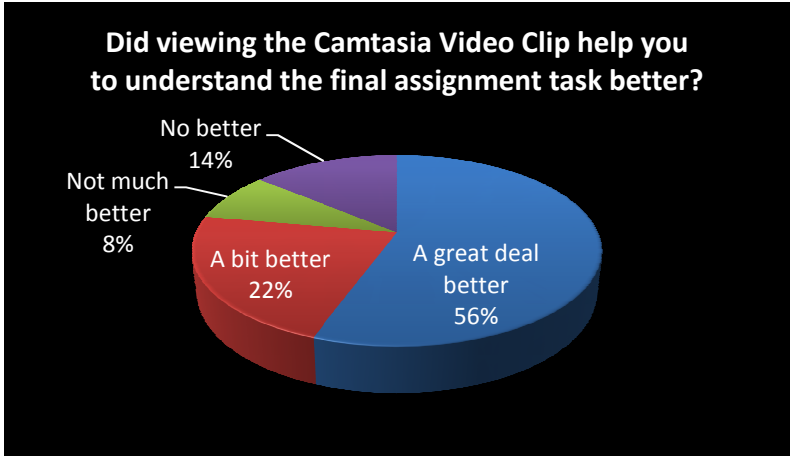
“Thank you so much for the support and guidance you have given me throughout this subject I really appreciate it. ”

“Thank you for all your help and support. I found the subject very interesting, particularly the academic writing side of things. Also I found this subject to be very well organised and very well delivered. Wimba classes helped to make me feel connected to everyone else and to reassure me that I was on track. ”

“It was a pleasure to take part in the survey, CUC100 is a great unit and the support we all received was over and above what I had expected from a Tutor, I was very happy to complete the survey - well done to a great team of people who made the unit enjoyable. It's easy to do the work and to respect deadlines when we know how much effort and support is available for students. ”

Camtasia

Survey results – Usefulness of Camtasia Video Clips 2010



Over 70% of students who responded to this survey indicated that they would find video clips of lectures helpful for their learning.

Short video of lectures

“The on line video are very helpful and you should continue posting them. ”

“Although very late....the feed back I would like to give regarding the videos is that is it a great resource for external students as it allows to hear what the subject is about. ”

“Hi, sorry for the delay in getting back to you about the video clips of the workshops. I work a rotating shift pattern and have only just had a chance to look at them. From what I have seen so far they will be of great value to me as an external student. It has been about 10 years since I last did any study and it is going to be a while before I get back into the swing of things. This is also my first attempt at external study so any tools that will make the transition easier will be greatly appreciated. I guess it also helps me to make sure I am on the right track and not heading off in the wrong direction. ”

“Hi (Coordinator), I'd like to add my voice to the 'Please continue the videos' choir! Can't speak for anyone else, but they really help to add a feeling of connection with the course as a whole; plus, I really don't feel like I'm missing out on much at all when I get to see the same lectures as the internal students. It would obviously be easier to do group work in an internal setting, but that's just something I have to deal with. I'm sure as time goes on us external students will form into groups who communicate just as regularly as the internals. Again, two thumbs up for the videos! ”

“Hello, I'm an external student and i find that the videos really help my learning. I would very much like (well need) these to continue as it is only fair that they do as the help external student keep up whats happening with all the hands on stuff. It will help my learning in the future of this subject, thanks so much for doing it so far and i hope it continues in the future. ”

“Videos are very well received and very useful to me as an external student. They work very well and I actually feel part of the group. ”

“I found the videos from last week very helpful thank you. Gave me an real insight as to what is expected and where I should be looking to for more information. ”

“I'm studying this unit from Sierra Leone at the moment (my course is Humanitarian and Community studies). My Father works here in a startup mine project so I'm taking the opportunity to spend the year here and get a little bit of an idea of how life is here. So this subject is certainly fantastic for me and I'm hoping to learn a thing or two that could possibly be applied here. It's not easy thats for sure and it makes a lot of sense that a lot of time and focus is being directed at one community in India, as things learned there over time will be applicable to other communities all over the world. On the video's, I managed to download a couple from last weeks classes and I found them to be Fantastic. Really appreciate that the effort has gone into putting these online and thankyou for all involved for doing this. It really brings another dimension to external study, takes the material into the classroom, gives you a sense of the face to face that is the biggest weakness of external study. I certainly appreciate it and hope it continues(fingers crossed I can continue to download them). ”

“Afternoon (Coordinator), I just wanted to say the class videos were very helpful as a external student, it gives me a lot more to consider and think about and helped quite a bit. Keep them coming. ”

“Hi (Coordinator), I love the ability to be able to see what was discussed in class. There are a few things that come up in class that are not discussed in text books, so these uploaded videos are a great idea. Thank you for taking the time to make them and posting them. ”