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**Interview Reflection Paper**

As I set foot on American soil, I became an international student, who was unfamiliar with the western educational context. In comparison with the Chinese education, a large number of differences are embodied in writing conventions, assignment paper types and academic expectations. In order to improve my academic writing skills and correct deficiencies in my present writing process, I interviewed Kai Pan, an MBA program student, who is about to complete his second semester in the INTO Mason Graduate Pathway. In this interview, I set some questions, which are related to interviewee’s requirements of discipline and his school life. And these interview questions could be divided into four categories: 1) genres (types) and conventions of writing in interviewee’s discipline, 2) interviewee’s personal experience in the writing process, 3) resources and strategies for academic writing and 4) assessments of present academic outcomes. The purpose of this paper assignment was to figure out requirements of our discipline and give some constructive suggestions and recommendations to new management students.

Firstly, we talked about his current situation and recent basketball news to warm up. And then he introduced his project information and some types of paper assignments to me. He told me that he was devoted to doing many different papers, such as case study reports, reflection papers, summaries and marketing analyses. He was usually asked to use APA format style in his research papers, and he was confused about it before doing research. Similarly, it is a big challenge for me to use citations correctly when I do paper assignments. Because of EAP class, I’m starting to learn how to use citations in a right way. In addition, Kai Pan provided me with a website named Purdue Owl, which analyzes the usage of citation styles in detail and give some examples as well. I believe that this website can help me with my subsequent paper assignments.

Secondly, his rich working experience attracted me. Before came to the United States, he had a 6-year working experience in a national bank. When he was a customer manager, he was required to write a lot of proposals. We discussed the differences between academic writing and business writing. He considered that the aims of academic writing and business writing are different, so that the audience is completely different. The business writing is supposed to be clear and easy to understand. Managers want their clients to understand new products clearly and directly. It helps managers to promote and popularize new products conveniently. By contrast with academic writing, the readers of academic writing are always scholars, professors and students. Exact words and accurate expressions are essential for an academic paper. He told me that the aims of academic writing and business writing are completely different, but both of them basically required a logical structure and an accurate expression. He also advised me to develop a critical thinking. His suggestions inspired me to focus on every small mistakes in my papers, especially the grammatical errors, because every tiny mistake may lead to a misunderstanding. Thus, I decided to concentrate on the concision, clearness and accuracy in my papers, since they are the basic characteristics of a good article.

Thirdly, Kai Pan recommended me a journal for my future research, “Academy of management journal”, which is extremely famous in the field of management. I was unfamiliar with the process of a research paper, so he shared me with his personal experience. The first step was to determine the research direction. Before analysis of the argumentative edge, he always searched for sources in the Google scholar and the online university library, which could offer him enough theoretical supports for the paper. After finishing a paper, an important step was to check the grammatical errors. Making an appointment with a tutor in the writing center was a good idea to address this problem. Indeed, it gave me an instruction for a research paper. I learned how to search for relevant research information and use campus resources to correct errors.

At last, I asked him to assess his present condition and academic performance. He was satisfied with his relationships, the ability to adapt to a new environment and exam results. These achievements undoubtedly make him optimistic and confident to face the subsequent challenges. However, he admitted that he had some deficiencies, especially his spoken English. Sometimes he could hardly communicate with natives and hardly express his thought exactly to classmates. Likewise, I have the same problem in many cases. I often feel nervous when I talk to native speakers, especially in the telephone. I’m worried that natives may laugh about my non-native spoken English. Sometimes the anxiety even makes me lose my tongue in the telephone, I am so upset and disappointed about that. Therefore, I am trying to take every opportunity to improve my speaking skills. I did not make enough efforts previously. And I believe that more practices can help me solve this problem.

This interview offered me the conventions and requirements of our discipline, also gave me some suggestions and instructions about citations and the process of research papers. I do believe that this interview could help international graduate students overcome a number of obstacles in academic writing and school life. And Pan’s rich working experience also helps management students to figure out the characteristics of business writing and academic writing.