Rachel Douty

Professor Villagra

PACE Prep

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**Distance vs. Traditional Learning: Skills, Success and Self**

Drawing both from the surveys that described the major skills necessary to succeed in a distance-learning course and from my past experience with distance-learning, I believe that the major difference between the distance and the traditional format for courses is the amount of autonomy that students are afforded. When taking a distance-learning course students often struggle because they previously relied on the motivation that comes from physically being in a classroom, for example wanting to know the information to avoid embarrassment if “called out” during class. In some of my past distance-learning experiences, I have struggled with a lack of motivation, but more recently as I have grown both emotionally and academically this has become much less of an issue. With this growth I have found an increased amount of intrinsic motivation especially in regards to my education, as well as improved time management skills, abilities that are very important for success in distance learning. Moving on, I am especially motivated because I believe this course will help me build skills that will be very useful both in college and in my future professional roles. The particular skills from this course that I believe I will find especially helpful are sharing my knowledge and opinions with others using the Internet, real life applications for math and techniques for using academic research tools. Looking beyond personal qualities, I believe that most of the technological skills necessary to complete this course, though I do struggle when it comes to formatting documents correctly on my own. Overall, I see this course helping me to get out of my comfort zone and expanding the academic and technological skills I need to succeed in both educational and professional environments.