Financial Statement Analysis Assignment Reflection Essay

The purpose of this assignment was to learn how to perform a financial statement analysis on a company to know if they could be a potential investment. This assignment also was a great way to give a real world experience in a classroom environment. In this assignment I learned how to perform a financial statement analysis, how to read the data that I have collected, obtain a better understanding of the ratios used in accounting, work on enhancing my business writing skills, and finally, how to read a company’s financial statements.

The skills that were required to complete this assignment were basic accounting knowledge, ability to read and understand financial statements, critical thinking skills, and the ability to describe what is learned by the numbers to a business person. This assignment was fun, but difficult. The difficulty that I faced was the ability to understand, then explain the evidence that I had found. I also found the writing hard in this fact that I was not writing to accountants that would understand the knowledge that I was sharing but to business people. This assignment was time consuming, and required a lot of reading.

This assignment was relevant to my major and intended career because one day I hope to have a career in some area of finance. I found this assignment to be interesting because of the financial parts of the business. I personally enjoy finance and plan to either become an accountant or work in finance and credit. This assignment helped me towards my career goals because it was not just a “fake” homework assignment, but felt to be more of a real world experience, as if my boss was asking me if we should invest in a company like Amazon.

This assignment challenged me in my accounting skills and abilities. I had a hard time with the understanding of each ratio, and because of this weak point, it made it difficult to write a paper to explain what I have learned from the ratios. Another challenge was reading the reports
because of how large they are; and, lastly I found that I had a hard time rounding the numbers to the correct decimal point.

In conclusion, I enjoyed this assignment because it felt like more of a real world project than just a homework assignment. I felt that I learned a lot from this assignment that will help me in the future of my accounting career. I developed skills in my accounting knowledge that will help me evaluate a business to see if they are worth the investment, as well the ability to explain to another person that has or doesn’t have accounting knowledge about my findings.