# Data D3- Theme 1 Sub-theme 2

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| **Theme1: Self-awareness, grit and optimism as factors influencing student success** | | |
| **Sub-theme 2: Steps and aids towards successful academic milestones** | | |
| **What was done right** | Mandisa | "I went and asked a lecturer “I don’t understand this, what do you mean?” or I would look for a student that I could see that that one, that one understands this thing and I do not understand it so let me go talk to the student exchange number, make an appointment to meet at the library or wherever we can meet, like a study environment where we can study" |
| "I feel inside me saying that you going to fail girl you do not understand you know. So, I made sure I understood what was being taught at that moment, if I didn’t know what they were talking about I would go and ask" |
| "I know there were times I didn’t feel like studying but uhm with the help of people like my friends who were there with me we studied" |
| Gwen | "I was like let me talk to tutors now so I go to tutors, I’m like I need help. I talk to my class mate I’m like how do you look at this, how do you think about this especially people who do well" |
| "I ended up going to that centre where I think they have those psychologists they have the learning people….. I went there even and I was like I need help. I went to the career centre" |
| "I worked very hard I was like I’m going to somehow make it into that Honours degree. I’m going to be one of those 30 people and literally I’m going to make it" |
| Terry | "Luckily in varsity it’s a lot of us, so, I’m one person who can’t really ask questions in a crowd area and all that stuff so, I will ask the question when I am alone, when I consult the lecturer and all the stuff" |
| "I am able to keep a healthy lifestyle also, that helped me succeed in achieving my goal" |
| Zolani | "The fact that there was always a student around. You will always ask and say Guys look I'm struggling with this; can you just assist me and that will come very handy" |
| Lebo | "I had few people, like our backgrounds are almost similar but, on the train, I think we were there for each other, we motivated each other to do well and we would run together to the train station on certain dates" |
| Thembi | "Lectures, I was there. Tutorials, I was there. Practicals, I was there. And I went to see \*inaudible\* as well to help me with study methods so that I study as effectively as I can... I went to my friend who fixates on detail. She will sit for an hour and unpack a topic and I’m just like “no man here is the big picture, let’s move on" |
| "We used to study together and another thing I challenged myself was, whenever someone didn't understand something, I would volunteer like I would explain it to you and I will always go back to explain it with the details" |
| **Support** | Khensani | "I was very proud that I was able to put the research project together and it made sense because my supervisor was proud, my honours coordinator and lecturer were very proud" |
| "I felt so proud that I was able to bring my family together to come and celebrate ne]me. Honestly speaking, obtaining my honours degree was something that I am very proud of" |
| "I had a relative who worked on campus…. he would make sure that he passes by my place at the time that I am leaving my place and he would give me a lift and he would ask how are thigs going and I would tell him I feel like giving up, especially with my research... he would be like you have the ability to move on and make it, just keep doing it. If you need help I am here" |
| Thembi | "And I went to see \*inaudible\* as well to help me with study methods so that I study as effectively as I can" |
| Lebo | "I went there with my mom and my older sister, so they were there to support and after that my sister wanted to go back to school" |