



Initiative, self-motivation and self-awareness

The first step in choosing the topic of your dissertation involved reflecting upon your own abilities, so you could decide what research activities would suit you best. This called for that mature ability to reflect thoughtfully on your strengths and weaknesses. As a result you have a better understanding of how to get the most out of your abilities.

When you turned your thoughts to the topic itself, you demonstrated that you can work on your own initiative by generating your own ideas and reflecting on those things that interest you most. Once you had decided on your project you then had to design a viable plan, which involved deciding what techniques to use (quantitative and qualitative) and the tools that you would need to design (questionnaires, interview strategies, case studies, tests and so on). Your success in designing and tackling such a large and difficult project depended upon your ability to motivate yourself and work on your own initiative. It also drew heavily on your confidence to make important, difficult decisions that were likely to affect the success of the whole project.