Academic Writing

Find your way in the information world
Academic Writing...
is writing which produces or analyzes knowledge

Be critical

- you don’t want to include inaccurate or outdated information
- your assignment needs to show you are thinking about the topic (not just repeating research on one’s opinion)
The information world

Data smog

- overwhelming amount of data and information
- comes rapidly and from all directions
- causes more confusion to the user than illuminates a topic
Information Sources

- **Primary sources:**
  as close as possible to original ideas, events, and empirical research
  -> interviews, conference proceedings, letters, photos

- **Secondary sources:**
  analyze, review, or summarize information in primary resources or other secondary resources
  -> monographs, articles, biographies, reviews

- **Tertiary sources:**
  overview of topics by synthesizing information gathered from other resources
  -> dictionaries, encyclopedias, handbooks, tables
Genre of Writing

Argumentative

• In the introduction, there should be some kind of thesis statement

• In the case of a multi-author volume, each chapter will have an intro with a thesis statement

Dialogic

• Written in dialogue with other specialists in their field

• You can easily tell, as there will be substantial works cited

Argumentative Writing
1. Make a claim
2. Support your claim with reasons/evidence
3. Acknowledge the counterclaim
4. Refute the counterclaim
5. Conclude with a strong statement

Dialogic Writing
Clear, personal, confrontational, dialogic feedback and feed forward functions best for students

Examples of dialogic & personal fb:
• "I think this is unnecessary, - but you may disagree?"
• "In my view ... What do you think?"
• "I am not convinced by your argument here"
Newspapers / Magazines

- A primary source (historical and current events) and also a secondary source (commentaries or retrospective articles about events).

- They differ in their political and social agendas. Readers need to consider the intended audience, the authors’ and editors’ purpose and the choices they made about how to write and what to include in each newspaper article.

- While they are valuable as sources, issues arise when people rely on them alone to reconstruct history.
Scholarly Article

- Is written by experts in academic or professional fields
- Is an excellent source for finding out what has been studied or researched on a topic
- It includes bibliographies that point to other relevant sources of information

Publishers:
- Wiley
- Taylor & Francis
- IEEE
- Elsevier
- Sage
- Emerald
- Springer

key points: https://goo.gl/LZdcex
Evaluating resources

the CRAAP rule

the Internet IS awesome:
• Wide variety of information
• Timely
• Available always, 24/7 - 365
• Comfortable and convenient

the Internet is NOT awesome:
• No review process
• Not organized
• May not be permanent
• No personalized help
• Sometimes may cost money
“...the consequences of plagiarism are much more serious than the consequences of turning in a paper late...”

Plagiarism is an act of fraud. It involves both stealing someone else’s work and lying about it afterwards.

- to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one’s own
- to use (another’s production) without crediting the source
- to commit literary theft
- to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source

Act smart and ethically...
- Paraphrase
- Cite
- Quote
- Cite quotes
- Cite your own material
- Create Reference
What is a citation in research?
…when one paper explicitly refers to another paper

Citations are typically used as a measure of influence, but they reflect a complicated set of factors besides quality and time—for example, visibility, size of citing community, and integration into social and professional networks (Ward et al., 1992).
APA (American Psychological Association) Citation Style

**Article**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Publication Year</th>
<th>Article Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Digital Object Identifier</th>
<th>Journal Title</th>
<th>Volume</th>
<th>Page Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Book**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Publication Year</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City of Publication</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**E-resource**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Publication Year</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Deconstruct your topic

Understand your topic
• Put down the Basic terms

Break Down The topic
• Be Creative
• Find Alternatives

Basic term 1 *what does it mean? What does it include???
  • Alternative 1
  • Alternative 2
  ..................

Basic term 2 *what does it mean? What does it include???
  • Alternative 1
  • Alternative 2
  ..................
Deconstruct your topic – examples

- Look at your topic statement question
  Your business is considering offering child-care and/or elder-care benefits to its employees. Assess the financial pros and cons of either type of benefit, and offer recommendations.

- Break it down into its major concept terms
  - child-care
  - elder-care
  - benefits
  - financial pros and cons

- Think of synonyms and variations of your keywords to use when searching

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Childcare</th>
<th>ElderCare</th>
<th>Benefits</th>
<th>financial pros and cons assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Employee benefits</td>
<td>cost analysis / cost effectiveness / cost benefit / cost benefit analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Employee support packages</td>
<td>Human resources management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Employee assistance programs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Job satisfaction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Look at your topic statement or question
   Hydrogen-based cars are the future of environmentally friendly transportation in America.

2. Break it down into its major concept terms
   - hydrogen
   - cars
   - future
   - environment
   - friendly
   - America

3. Think of synonyms and variations of your keywords to use when searching

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>hydrogen</th>
<th>car /cars</th>
<th>environment</th>
<th>friendly</th>
<th>America</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>automobile</td>
<td>Ecology</td>
<td>safe</td>
<td>United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>vehicle</td>
<td>benefit/beneficial</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Develop your search strategy

The search strategy shows how the main points are combined in order to retrieve the best results

- Search with keywords
- Use Boolean (AND/OR/NOT), truncation (*) and wildcards (?) / #)
- Try searching with the exact phrase
- Adjust your search
- Search with Subject Headings
- Search within citations
SKL – Resources & Tools

- Definitions / clarifications: Reference material
- Books: Library’s Catalogue
- All material type: InKUire
- Journal Articles / Reports / Working papers: Databases
  → choose the Database that covers your subject
- Journal Articles: E-journals
  → Search within the publication
- Journal Articles / Reports / Working papers / Conference Papers: KU Institutional Repository
- KU Theses & Dissertations: KU Digital Collections
Benefit from the services

Document delivery
- Article request
- InterCampus request

My Account

Off Campus access (VPN)

LibGuide on Academic Writing

Reference Team
- Instructions/seminars/workshops
- Tailor made research assistance
- Subject Guides

(*** Open Access is vital for one's research. ***)
Writing is thinking. To write well is to think clearly. That's why it's so hard.

David McCullough

- www.writerswrite.co.za