

LC-1350

Writing Doctoral Research

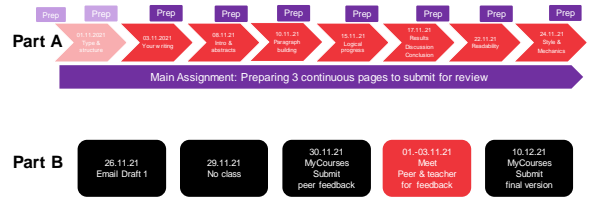
2 Your writing

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Language Centre

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Course Overview: Course timeline

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From the last time - Comments on Assignment 1.1

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Q8 What is your argument as you currently understand it?

An argument is ...
 your single significant idea
 that is supported with sufficient evidence
 to convince a reader
 that your point of view has validity

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An argument is not . . .

A topic or a question
 but rather a position
 established through rational support
 with which others can argue

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How do you currently write?

Detective style > a report

- Item X was found at the crime scene
- Neighbors were interviewed
- Neighbors heard / said ...
- B was arrested

Data-driven ?

- Descriptive

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How do you currently write?

Detective style > a report

- Item X was found at the crime scene
- Neighbors were interviewed
- Neighbors heard / said ...
- B was arrested

Lawyer style > a case

- B was arrested for murder because item X was found at the crime scene
- Eyewitness Y saw him do it

Data-driven ?

- Descriptive

Argument-driven ?

- Descriptive
- Explanatory
- Argumentative

Aim at argument-driven

- **Present evidence** that supports your case
- **Cross-examine evidence** that does not support your case
- **Ignore evidence** that neither supports or contradicts your case

To ensure that the audience knows what (novel) idea is being pursued and why

Eight pitfalls to avoid

No argument	Not stated clearly or stated too late
Lacks focus	Research focus too narrow or too broad
Not scholarly	Absence of references
Not original enough	New knowledge missing
Too defensive	Over- or underestimating the content or apparatus
Poor structure	Cannot follow the logical argument
Theoretically or methodologically flawed	Suggests inadequate research or insufficient data
Poor language skills	Indicates twisted sentence structures, incorrect verb tense and agreement, pronouns with unclear referents, and so on

Today

Assignments due

Deadline 03.11 (12:30) Prepare
Complete these activities before Workshop 2
MyCourses > 2 Your writing >

- 2.1 What writer type
- 2.2 Analyze your sentence style
- 2.3 Analyze your sentence types
- 2.4 Finding pitfalls in methods

Deadline 08.11 (12:30) Submit assignments
MyCourses > 1 Text type and structure >
1.2B Model texts

Assignment 2.1

Writer types

2.1 What type of writer are you?

Writer types - A framework for thinking about your approach & strategies

- The regurgitator
- The procrastinator
- The critic
- The perfectionist
- The information builder

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Discuss

Using the five-writer types as a framework, discuss . . .

- 1) What writing behaviors support/hinder your writing process
- 2) What strategies help you overcome non-productive behaviors

MyCourses (under Zoom meetings) 2.1
Discuss writing behaviors (a padlet)



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Assignment 2.2

Your sentence style



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2.2 Your sentence analysis

Assume the following ...

- 12-19 words = Standard
- 20-30 words = Long
- 31-40 or 0-10 words = exceptional

Note

A good average is 20 to 22 words, which includes varying lengths

(Reference: Hofmann, A. 2014. Scientific Writing and Communication)

1. How many words are
 - a) in the shortest sentence?
 - b) in the longest sentence?
2. How do the sentence lengths group
 - a) Are long sentences together or spread out?
 - b) Are short sentences together or spread out?
3. Which paragraphs contain
 - a) mostly (or only) short sentences?
 - b) mostly (or only) long sentences?
4. What is your average sentence length?

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2.2 On sentence style

Discuss your thoughts (in padlet) on the following:

1. Sentence length: Why is it important?
2. Nominalization: Why might it be a problem?
3. Passive voice: When to use it?
4. Other questions or comments about style in scientific writing?



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Assignment 2.3

Your sentence types



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Assignment 2.3 Your sentence types

Letter code for types

- a = simple
- b = compound
- c = complex
- d = compound-complex

1. How many sentence types do you use?
2. How do the sentence types group, together or spread out?
3. Which paragraphs contain mostly only one type?
4. How many sentences do *not* appear to be type A-D? Any fragments or run-on sentences?
5. What kind of sentences are used in the articles of your selected journal? How many semicolons do you see?



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Assignment 2.3 Your sentence types

Follow-up

You may have some sentences whose type was difficult to identify.

In [MyCourses > Zoom meetings > 2.3 Analyzing sentence types](#)

you can post 1-2 sentences that were difficult to identify



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Assignment 2.3 Your sentence types

Follow-up

1. How many of you found
 - a) all four sentence types?
 - b) incomplete or run-on sentences?
 - c) sentences that didn't seem to fit one of the four types?
2. What do you think about using semi-colons (;) in scientific writing? Are they commonly used in your field? What are they used for?
3. Other questions or comments?



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2.4 Methods pitfalls



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Discuss

2.4 Pitfalls to avoid in methods

- You posted findings about pitfalls in methods – based on a checklist (next slide)
- Discuss your post
- Share other pitfalls that you've also learned about
- Questions or comments for the class?



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Checklist	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many of you found pitfalls in your methods? • Questions or comments?
1.	Use effective visual organizers (descriptive and parallel)
2.	Include the most important steps, providing sufficient detail for replicating the experiment
3.	Write a new text not identical to the source text and cite principles of previously published methods
4.	Describe methods in a logical order (not chronological)
5.	Match the order in which methods are described to the order of the results that were generated using those methods
6.	Write methods with the correct style and intent, ensuring they do not resemble a protocol
7.	Use past tense for what was done and present tense for referring to figures and diagrams
8.	Use passive voice or personal pronoun (I, We) as appropriate to your discipline
9.	Write clear, concise explanations
10.	Use correct punctuation and spacing of formula

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Next assignments

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Next assignments

Deadline 08.11.21 (12:30)**MyCourses > 1 Text type and structure >**

1.2B Model texts

Deadline 08.11.21 (12:30) Prepare for next time**MyCourses > 3 Introductions and abstracts >**

3.1 Writing introductions > analyze two introductions

3.2 Writing abstracts > analyze an abstract

3.3 Writing titles > write an effective title

3.4 Citing tips > Review materials and take a quiz

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