Foundations of Graduate Writing Series: Workshop Topic Descriptions

Workshop 1: Graduate Writer Mindset

Writing is hard for all new graduate students--no one comes in already understanding how to write at a graduate level in a new discipline. Undergraduate writing is a good foundation, but it does not fully prepare you for graduate school writing, which involves a new set of skills. This workshop will give you perspectives and specific tools that can be implemented immediately to ease the learning curve as you enter a graduate-level program.

Workshop 2: Academic Voice

Does your writing "sound academic"? Sometimes, students are given comments such as "fix the tone of this paper" or "your writing should sound more academic." But what do these comments *mean*? Attend this workshop to learn strategies for adopting and understanding academic voice as you progress as an academic writer.

Workshop 3: Recognizing the Parts of a Research Paper

The research paper is a common type of writing in academics and in the professional world; like all genres, it has certain conventions. Readers expect a research paper to have certain parts--an abstract, an introduction, a literature review, methodology, etc.--but those parts can be unclear if you haven't written many research papers already. This workshop aims to demystify the parts of a research paper so you can recognize those parts when you see them (e.g., in academic journal articles) and so you can produce those parts yourself.

Workshop 4: Searching for Research Articles

Ever struggled finding that perfect article to support the ideas in your paper? Research can be slow, challenging, and frustrating, so the Writing Center is partnering with Librarian Bernd Becker to help you get immediate results. In this training, you will learn successful strategies on how to search for scholarly research articles using library resources such as the OneSearch catalog, specialized databases, and even Google Scholar. We will also demonstrate the organic research process,

showing both our thought process and how to troubleshoot common mistakes live. We'll wrap up by detailing all the free research support available to you both in-person and online from the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library.

Workshop 5: Abstracts and Literature Reviews

Large research papers are a hallmark of academic writing. However, they can pose challenges because they contain many parts. This workshop will examine two of the most common and important components of a research paper in detail: the abstract and the literature review. We will give you tools to both analyze and write successful abstracts and literature reviews.

Workshop 6: Sentence Variety and Rhythm

The goal of any piece of writing is to communicate your ideas clearly. As an academic writer, you must learn how to mix your direct sentences with more complex ones to achieve an "academic rhythm" in your writing style. Having a strong academic rhythm makes your writing clearer and more engaging. Most students are never taught how to create academic rhythm, so we made this workshop expressly to teach you how to use the five elements of rhythm: sequencing, length, structure, word choice, and advanced punctuation.

Workshop 7: Writing Productivity: Solo and Group Adventures

Drowning in deadlines and battling procrastination? You're not alone. These feelings so often lead to writers feeling overwhelmed and burned out. In this workshop, you'll gain practical tools and techniques to optimize your writing time. We'll debunk common myths about productivity, discuss solutions, and explore techniques for enhancing your solo writing time. Additionally, you'll learn about writing groups and how to create your own supportive community that fosters mutual encouragement, idea-sharing, and accountability. It may surprise you that there are different types of peer writing groups—we'll uncover the benefits, best practices, and tools for establishing, launching, and managing the one that suits your group best and sets you up for writing success!