



Welcome



International Undergraduate Academic Success Program

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Madeline Smith, Year 5 Faculty of Arts & Centre for Writers

### We will introduce you to:

### writing

 Canadian or North American expectations of academic writing



### We will not be able to

 Make you a perfect writer

- every type of writing assignment
- good grades



### Presentation Topics – Day 1

1. Cultures of writing

2. Writing for the disciplines

3. Types of essays and assignments

4. Thoughts on the writing process

### **Cultures of Writing**

- Expectations of writing can vary
  - from culture to culture
    - Japanese culture: job of reader to understand
    - Canadian culture: job of writer to understand
  - -from instructor to instructor
    - Science professors
    - English professors
    - Biology 101, different sections

### **Cultures of Writing**

- Expectations of writing can vary
  - from person to person
    - Susan's story of writing in Scotland
    - Madeline's story of writing in first year

What are your expectations of writing at the University of Alberta?

### Your Culture of Writing

Please share your culture of writing from your home country

### At the University of Alberta

### Writer is responsible to meet reader's expectations

Communicating in English (YouTube Video 5:33)



### Academic Expectations of Students

It is up to you to ask questions

- Whom are you writing for?
- What have they told you to do?
- What do they expect to read?
- What do you want to tell them?



### Our Advice to You

Common communication problems between instructors and students

1 Instructors assume you understand everything you read

2 Students assume instructors tell them everything they need to write the assignment successfully

# Our Advice to You START WRITING EARLY

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START WRITING

ASSIGNMENT DUE



### Academic Expectations

# Rhetorical in nature PURPOSE Audience

### Purpose

- What are you writing?
- If it is not clear, ask your instructor
- Are you writing a:
  - Description of a lab experiment
  - Exposition of a love story
  - Argument for global economic trade
  - Reflection on your field experience
  - Review of literature on genetically modified corn

### Audience

- Who are you writing for?
- Your instructor or marker
- Guide your reader
- For example,
   Use headings
   Use bold text



### Audience

- Guide your reader
- For example,
  - Use a parallel structure
    - First, second, third
    - In this paper I will do X, Y, Z
    - List in exact order: X, Y, Z

Ananda Seva 300-Hour Yoga Therapy Program Renec Klein July 2010 RESEARCH PAPER COPD & Asthma Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is an umbrellaterm used to describe several loar diseases incluting emphysems and chronic bronchitis. "Obstruction" in CODD means that Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPP) is an umbrellatterm used to describe several lang diseases including emplysema and chronic bronchitis, "Obstruction" in COPD means that the flow of air in and out of the lange is less than ideal. meaning back over one note into the body to be the second to be body to be the second to be body t lung diseases including emphysema and chronic bronchitis. "Obstruction" in COPD means that the flow of air in and out of the lungs is fess than ideal, meaning less oxygen gets into the body itsaues and it becomes harder to eet rid of carbon dioxide (waste eas.). With chronic bronchitis the flow of air in and out of the lungs is less than ideal, meaning less oxygen gets into the body tissues and it becomes harder to get rid of carbon dioxide (wase gas). With <u>chronic bronchius</u> the linine of the breathine tubes (bronchi) are swollen and nordace mucus that is courbed un. tituates and it becomes harder to get rid of carbon dioxide (waste gas). With <u>chronic bronchill</u> the lining of the treathing tubes (bronchi) are swollen and produce mucus that is coughed up. With emphysican the walls of the air sacs in the line are broken down and the air snaces are to be an experimentation of the same set of the s the lining of the breathing tubes (bronchi) are swollen and produce mucus that is coughed up. Write <u>emphysicana</u> the walls of the air saces in the lung are broken down and the air spaces get larger and air gets transed. Some recoile have both chemic bronchitis and emphysicana. 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More than 12 million people have COPD and up to 24 million may have the disease but not know it. <u>Smoking, air pollution</u> and <u>on-the-job fumes and dust</u> are the primary eases. Asthma is a similar/related lang disease for which there is no cure. It affects nearly 23 million Americans (about 3 percent), including 7 million children, or about one in 10. With asthma airways are ches wollen and red (cr inflamed), making them sensitive to environmental "riggers" such as the weather, dust, chemicals, smoke and pet dander. When an attack occurs, aways are often swollen and ted (or inflanded), making them sensitive to environmental tiggers' such as the weather, dust, chemicals, smoke and pet dander. When an attack occurs, the muscles surrounding the airways become tight and the lining of the air massages swell. This such as the weather, dust, chemicals, snoke and pet dander. When an attack occurs, essanounting the airways become tight and the lining of the air passages swell. This is eanount of air that can pass by, and can lead to wheezing sounds. Sometimes, people nuacles summaring the airways become tight and the lining of the air passages swell. This even the annual of air that can pass by, and can lead to wheezing sounds. Sometimes, People we astima when they are very voung and as their lungs develor, the symptoms go away. aces the amount of sir that can pass by, and can lead to where/ing sounds. Sometimes, peopling and as the people of the symptoms of the source of the symptoms of the source of the symptoms of the source of the so a tends to run in families, and certain allergies are linked to people who have asthma. 'autima attacks are medged emergencies that require immediate atention by a physician or ER. Most cases of autima are caused by a combination of genetic and environmental Acate autimas attacks are medical emergencies that require immediate attention by a at an ER. Most cases of autimas are caused by a combination of genetic and environ factors. Autima rates are rising due to increased stresses on the immune system from at an ER. Most cases of addma are caused by a combination of genetic and environmental factors. Addma rates are rising due to increased stresses on the immune system from more pollution in air, water and food. Preventing attacks and severe opisodes is key and recommendations include: ans and COPD involve citing (a) short-term, quick-relief tronchodilators that help the standard-onest symptoms, (b) long-acting pharmaceuticals that reduce analy and they help reduce airway inflammation. Those with mild or infrequent and case constriction of nirways. Many medications are in the stores by help reduce airway inflammation. Those with mild or infrequent ally use just queck-retief medications, while those with persistent ke control medications.

### Audience

- Guide your reader
- For example,
  - Use clear transitions
    - "First...second...last"
    - "Therefore...",
    - "Because of this...",
    - "However..."
    - "As noted above...",
    - "Next..."

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### Academic Expectations

Direct, explicit, and rhetorical in nature:

- Clearly understand the purpose of your assignment
- Clearly understand who your audience (your reader)
- If you do not know, then ask questions

### Writing for the Disciplines

# Academic Writing Differs by Discipline

### Writing for the Disciplines

- An academic discipline is:
  - engineering, biology, philosophy, sociology, mathematics, geology, law, medicine, music
- Each discipline has:
  - its own expectations of speaking, writing, and engaging in study, reading, writing, and presenting

### Writing for the Disciplines

Different disciplines have different expectations:

- **Content:** What counts as evidence?
- Organization: How are papers structured?
- Style: What types of sentences are used? What forms of voice are used? How is topic introduced? What kind of style guide is followed?

### **Expectations by Different Disciplines**

### English

- Active voice
- Direct quote sources
- No headings
- MLA style guide
- Analysis
- Writing expectations:
  - "close reading"
  - "analyze"

### Science (Chemistry)

- Passive voice
- Paraphrase sources
- Headings
- CSE style guide
- Synthesis
- Writing expectations
  - "observe"
  - "explain"



### Types of essays and assignments

# Assignment Instructions

### Writing Assignments

Following instructions is critical for student success INSTRUCTIONS: Where are they?

- Syllabus or course outline
- Handouts given in class
- Posted on eClass or Course Moodle

### Writing Assignments

**Essay** (for example for an English course) Lab Report (for a Biology course) **Reflection** (for a Sociology course) Journal (for a Psychology course) Letter to the Editor (for an English course) **Research Paper (all disciplines) Term Paper (all disciplines)** Group Project (all disciplines)

## BREAK INTO SMALL GROUPS



### WRITING ASSIGNMENT EXAMPLES

- 1. What is the assignment called?
- 2. What are you being asked to do?
- 3. How many tasks are required?
- 4. Look for verbs.
- 5. How you would write this?





# Writer-Responsible

### Writer-Responsible Culture

- Good writers start long before due date
- Good writers revise more than once
- Good writers learn to clarify expectations
- Good writers follow instructions

### "Because" statements: claim: "I argue...", "This paper discusses..." reason: "because of..."

Example: I argue that water should not be privatized because corporate control of water supplies (1) would increase costs to users, (2) reduce public access to limited resources, and (3) potentially cause greater health risks for the public.

### Sample Paragraph

"This paper examines jet lag: an unwanted state of fatigue incurred after crossing several time zones quickly. Overall, beneficial information is provided for travelers so that they will be more aware of how to prevent jet lag. The first section uses four sources for describing jet lag's definition. The causes are explained by three credible sources. The effects are thoroughly explained and commented on by two interviewees. Then, who jet lag affects will be comprehensively explained. Last, there is a description of the techniques for reducing jet lag by utilizing information from journals and online articles. Jet lag can occur in anybody's life if they fly; this paper provides methods to counteract its effects."

## Sample Paragraph: Purpose/focus

• "This paper examines jet lag: an unwanted state of fatigue incurred after crossing several time zones quickly. Overall, beneficial information is provided for travelers so that they will be more aware of how to prevent jet lag. The first section uses four sources for describing jet lag's definition. The causes are explained by three credible sources. The effects are thoroughly explained and commented on by two interviewees. Then, who jet lag affects will be comprehensively explained. Last, there is a description of the techniques for reducing jet lag by utilizing information from journals and online articles. Jet lag can occur in anybody's life if they fly; this paper provides methods to counteract its effects."



# **Opening the Conversation**





### **UPCOMING WORKSHOPS**

### More on Writing Process

- Understanding writing tasks
- Writing parts of an essay
- Self-editing strategies
- Grammar tips
- Research in library
- Resources on campus

