



Developing Your Academic Writing

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Outline of the session

- You as an academic writer
- Writing as design
- Getting started
- Organising and shaping your writing
- Developing and strengthening your argument
- Issues of audience, persuading the reader
- Comparing articles
- Making a space for writing



You as an academic writer

- Make a list of the academic writing you have done in the last fortnight
- Does not have to be completed
- Anything you have started
- Share with colleague
- Articles, thesis, abstract, literature review, research proposal, course guidance, feedback to students, referee for journal article, conference proposal, research bid



Writing as Design

- Art not science
- No one way
- Integration of resources
- Developing an argument
- Persuading your reader
- Creative design



Getting Started

Practice writing –for a purpose

Does not matter what it looks like. Just get writing. Keep writing.

Just Writing

Short burst of writing public or private (journals, blogs)



Organising and Shaping Your Writing

What kind of writer are you?

- Diver Writer
- Patchwork Writer
- Grand Plan Writer
- Architect Writer



Developing your argument

Should run throughout your writing – always coming to the fore

Evident in the literature review, methodology, data analysis and findings. Runs through all these.

At all points you are persuading the reader you have something convincing to say.



What people say about argument

- A point of view
- Supported by evidence
- Internal (coherence) and external (persuasive) to the text
- Narrative or storyline
- Problematisation of ideas/knowledge/practice
- A claim supported by theoretical and / or empirical evidence.
- Marshalling what you feel is known about an area and presenting a critical analysis of this.
- A supported rationale: i.e. a number of linked steps or stages, each with a statement/claim where one step leads to another. Often evidence is needed either from the field (in the form of literature, e.g.) or from our data.
- Argument is the writing throughout, reasoning from established or new evidence or academic thinking to illuminate and generalise from a case or other particularity
- suggests the way in which you explain and justify your point of view, with relevant/appropriate evidence to support it – i.e. a reasoned framework behind one's theoretical or practical stance



Issues of audience

- Who are you speaking to?
- A conversation with an imagined reader
- Persuading your reader



Looking at two different texts

- Features of these texts
- How is the argument built?
- What devices do the authors use?
- How does the author persuade the reader?
- How does the author use the work/words of others?
- What makes it original?



Making a space for writing

- Try writing in different environment
- Gather resources before writing
- Keep away from online environment (is this is possible or reasonable?)
- Hybridity and multiplicity of resources is now integral to how we write
- Turn off e mail/social networking/ be firm about searches
- Keep other applications to a minimum but use to your advantage e.g using web for citations/references