Techniques and AI tools used in academic writing

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Agenda

1. **Academic Writing**

2. **Searching process**

3. **Plagiarism**

4. **Academic Presentations**

5. **AI in Academic Writing**

Does any of this points sound familiar?

- A lot of information and no starting point …

- Very much pages are written but nothing is finished …

- Endless drafts …

- No motivation for writing …

You are not alone…

- Academic writing - stress for PhD students.
- Training can improve the skills.

*"Don't think, just keep getting words down on the page. And if you get stuck, just write about something else. This gives you something to work with and **edit later**."*

Academic writing

"I am not built for academic writings. Action is my domain" - Mahatma Gandhi

What is an academic writing?

- A formal style of writing
  - used in scholarly publications
  - and in universities.

- Used to write
  - essays, research papers,
  - and dissertations.

Most Common Types of Academic Writing

A few of the most common academic writing types are:

- Essays

- Research Papers

- Reviews

- Reports

and Academic Presentations.

PhD

- Writing a PhD - one of the hardest things someone will ever do as a writer

  - It requires to bring original research to life with limits.

  - The longest and complex piece of writing.

- We need to follow to:

  - Subject specific Guidelines

  - Supervisor

What sections does a dissertation contain?

Front matter (title page, abstract, etc.)

Introduction

Literature review/theoretical framework

Methodology

Results

Discussion

Conclusion

End matter (Reference list, etc.)

Check the guidelines!

- The sections are important (They may change based on your field)

- Think about the nature of your research

- Ask your supervisor if you're in stuck or unsure

Checklist for Academic writing

I avoid

✔ **informal terms**.

✔ **second-person pronouns** *("you")*.

✔ **emotive language.**

✔ **needless** words and/or phrases.

✔ **unnecessary jargon**

✔ I present information **accurately**

✔ I use the transitions to show the **connections between the ideas.**

✔ Text is **logically organized** (paragraphs).

✔ I use **arguments, facts.**

✔ I use either **UK or US English (***in case when we use English language).*

✔ I **cite my sources** and use **citation style**.

Writing process

„If I waited for perfection, I would never write a word" - Margaret Atwood

3 stages of the writing process

1. Research and planning
2. Writing
3. Revision

„Never put off until tomorrow what you can do today" (Mark Twain, Galaxy Magazine, July 1870)

Understanding your assignment

- What is the goal of the assignment?

- What topics can you write?

- When is your deadline?

"Sometimes the ideas just come to me. Other times I have to sweat and almost bleed to make ideas come. It's a mysterious process, but I hope I never find out exactly how it works. I like a mystery, as you may have noticed" - J.K. Rowling

Choosing a topic

- Clearly define your topic
- List of choices or freedom to choose your own topic?

For Example:
- Decorative flowers
- The art of caring for decorative flowers
- Or … ?

„The first step is always the hardest" (unknown)

Doing the research

- Start exploring the literature

- Use books, journals, and other sources

- Use arguments

- Keep notes and useful quotations

"The scariest moment is always just before you start. After that, things can only get better" -
Stephen King

Primary or secondary sources?

- **Primary sources:**
- *Jane Eyre*, by Charlotte Bronte

- **Secondary sources:**
- A journal article about 18th-century literature

Examples

primary sources

- Interview transcripts

- Historical documents

- Statistical data

secondary sources

- Scholarly books

- Journal articles

- Reviews

Formulating a thesis statement

- Central argument
- Research question

Outlining - structure

- Organize the thoughts
- The flow of information
- Be sure - nothing is forgotten.

Introduction

- **What** ?
  Introduce the topic.

- **Why** ?
  What new insights you offer.

- **How** ?
  Some sentences about the structure.

"Just write every day of your life. Read intensely. Then see what happens. Most of my friends who are put on that diet have very pleasant careers" - Ray Bradbury

Writing the body

- Several paragraphs or sections
    - Each paragraph/section covers one idea
    - Everything is presented in a logical order
- Contains all your arguments

"It's none of their business that you have to learn how to write. Let them think you were born that way" - Ernest Hemingway

Writing the conclusion

- No new arguments!
- Summarize the argument.
- Write about the limitations.
- What is your suggestion for further research?

The first draft

- Ideas into arguments.
- **Write now, perfect later.**
- Express yourself clearly.
- Use citation.

"A good style must first be clear" (Aristotle, *The Art of Rhetoric*, 350 B.C.E.)

Evaluating the first draft

- Anything missing?
- Everything clear?
- Should anything be cut?

Redrafting

- Reformulate arguments
- Reorder information
- Make cuts and additions

Editing

- Grammatical errors
- Sentence structure
- Avoid repetition

Proofreading

Errors in

- Spelling

- Punctuation

- Stylistic

- Missing words

- Missing or excess spaces

Where and how to search?

"I don't need to know everything, I just need to know where to find it"

(attrib. various, including Sophonisisba Beckinridge and Albert Einstein)

Search for relevant literature

Define your topic

Develop your research problem and questions

Use Relevant keywords

Start the search

Where to search?

- Your university's **library** (catalogue, databases …)

- Google Scholar

- JSTOR

- EBSCO

- Project Muse (humanities and social sciences)

See also

- Medline (life sciences and biomedicine)

- EconLit (economics)

- Inspec (physics, engineering and computer science)

Searching efficiently

Boolean operators (**AND**, **OR**, **NOT**)

Read **abstracts**

Check **bibliographies**

Note **citations**

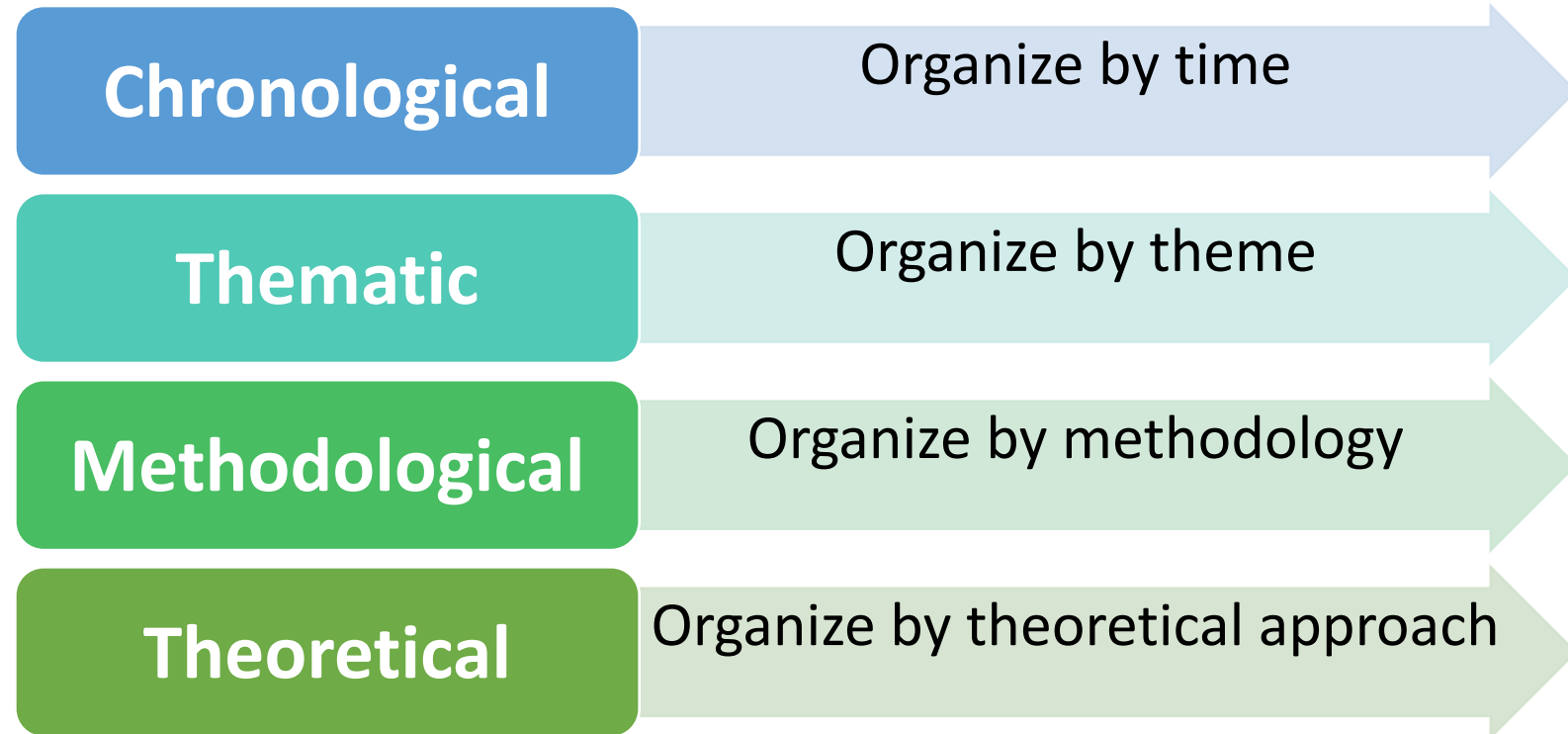# Evaluate and select sources

- What are the key concepts?

- What are the results and conclusions?

- What are the key insights and arguments?

Taking notes

- **Quotes**

- **Summaries of key points**

- **Source information:**

  - Author name

  - Title and journal name

  - Year of publication

  - Page numbers

Outline the structure

Chronological — Organize by time

Thematic — Organize by theme

Methodological — Organize by methodology

Theoretical — Organize by theoretical approach

Taboos in Academic writing

Taboo	Example	Alternative
A bit	The interviews were *a bit* difficult to schedule	The interviews were *(difficult/somewhat difficult)* to schedule
A lot of, a couple of	*A lot of* studies	*(Many/several/a great number of/eight)* studies

Taboo	Example	Alternative
Always, never	Researchers *always* argue that	Researchers *(frequently/commonly/ typically)* argue that
Perfect	The *perfect* solution to the problem	*(An ideal solution/one of the best solutions)* to the problem
Really, so, super	This theory is *really* important	This theory is *(important/critical/crucial)*

Other tipps

- **Jargon** (i.e., "insider" terminology that may be difficult for readers from other fields to understand)
- **Clichés** (i.e., expressions that are heavily overused, such as *think outside of the box* and *at the end of the day*)
- **Everyday abbreviations** (e.g., *approx., ASAP, corona, stats, info*)
- **Slang** (e.g., *cops, cool*)

Plagiarism

What it is and how to avoid it?

Plagiarism

"To steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own: to use (another's production) without crediting the source" - **Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary**

Plagiarism explained

Can happen accidentally

Applies even if you paraphrase

Using other sources is good, as long as you cite them

Citing sources shows which ideas are your own

After the plagiarism

- ❏ No Grade

- ❏ Failing the course

- ❏ Disciplinary action

- ❏ Suspension / expulsion

Step 1: Track of your sources

- Keep a list of all the sources you used

- Sources - include websites, videos, magazines, etc.

Details to write down

✓ Author name

✓ Source title

✓ Publication date

✓ Publisher

✓ Page numbers of specific quotes or passages

✓ URL or DOI (for online sources)

✓ Access date (for online sources)

Step 2: Quote or paraphrase

Quoting	Paraphrasing
✓ Copy the author's exact words ✓ Use quotation marks	✓ Put the text into your own words ✓ No quotation marks

When to use quotes?

✓   To give textual evidence

✓   To analyze language

✓   To give precise definitions

When to paraphrase?

✓ To share information

✓ To explain ideas

✓ To show the understanding of the source

Step 3: Cite the original source

- In-text citations: identify the source

- A reference list - full source information

- Citation style (MLA, Chicago, APA …)

- Online **citation generators** can also help

Plagiarism checkers

Used by universities - detect plagiarism

Compares document to a database of sources

Detects text that is too similar to other sources

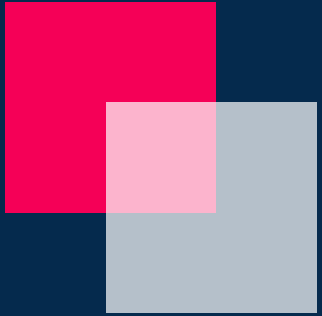Detects where citations are missing

Using a plagiarism checker yourself

- Download a **plagiarism report** when you submit your assignment

- If not, use the plagiarism checker services available **online**

- **Not all online plagiarism checkers are safe**!

True or false?

Online sources do not need to be cited.

FALSE: If we use online sources, we need to cite them too.

Academic Presentation

Tipps

3 Stages

1. ## Planning

   - *Purpose • Audience • Location*

1. ## Preparing

   - *RULE 1: Content is the most important part.*

   - *RULE 2: The visuals should be relevant.*

1. ## Presenting

   - *The delivery • Nerves*

Think about:

1. Presentation **slides**
2. Presentation **colour**
3. Strong presentation **opening**
4. **Design** an interesting presentation **first page**
5. End with actionable presentation **conclusions**
6. Presentation **ending slide**
7. Presentation **speech script**
8. To reduce anxiety
9. **Practice** before presenting
10. Prepare PPT presentation and PDF backup.

Tipps

- Use less text and numbers

- Avoid information overload

- Know and engage your audience

- Use humor and practical examples

Video

The Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

in Academic Writing

Q & A

1. Which online translation tools / software do you know/use?

2. Is it acceptable to use online tools/software in academic writing?

3. What kind of benefits can we have after using online tools/software for academic writing?

Just AI and one click or …

- **AI is going to solve all their problems** *(Yes or No?)*

We should try to understand **what they actually are.**

Potential uses **of AI**

- **Exploring the Information**

- **Summarizing longer texts**

- **Editing**

- **Translation**

- **…**

Potential fails **of AI**

- **False Information**

- **No Citations and quotes or false citations**

- **Violating academic integrity standards**

- **Your ideas may be changed step by step**

- **…**

AI – A Research Assistant or a Supervisor?

Will you check how your assistant did the job you gave him or not?

Maybe you will check it and give him feedback.

Think of AI apps as your research assistants and not your supervisors.

AI Tools for writing

- **ChatGPT - Chatbot - conversations, gain insights, automate tasks**
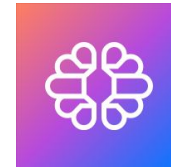
- **Paperpal – AI Academic writing tool**

- **Julius – Data analyst**

- **Quillbot – AI writing and grammar checker tool**

- **TextCortex – Text Generator, Chat**

- **Grammarly – AI writing assistance**

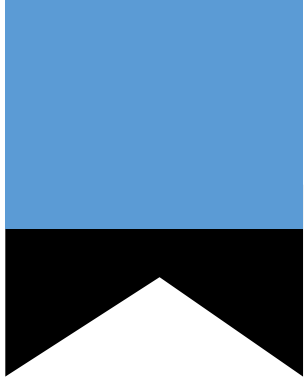- **Slidesgo – Presentation maker tool**

- **Elicit - Explore the scientific literature**

Summary

We should try to combine artificial intelligence with human intelligence

to write better.

Recommended resources

- Citation Generators

- Plagiarism Checkers

- AI Tools we mentioned

References

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Thank You for your attention!

Σας ευχαριστώ για την προσοχή σας!

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"Never, never, never, never give up" - *Winston Churchill*