



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

University

Writing Program

Writing in Grad School: Things You Need to Know

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Agenda

- What is graduate school writing?
 - 3 approaches/discussion and activities
- How to make the most of the Drexel Writing Center
- Reflect and wrap up



Which statement better describes your graduate school writing experience so far?

A

a lot like undergraduate writing, just longer and more involved

B

not a lot like undergraduate writing. It feels like I am in a whole new world.



What is
graduate
school writing?

Chime in or add your thoughts in
the Chat!



What is
graduate
school writing?

Writing in graduate school is the process of coming to belong in an academic discipline, with unique (and often hidden) ways of knowing and ways of communicating.

(add your thoughts in the Chat!)



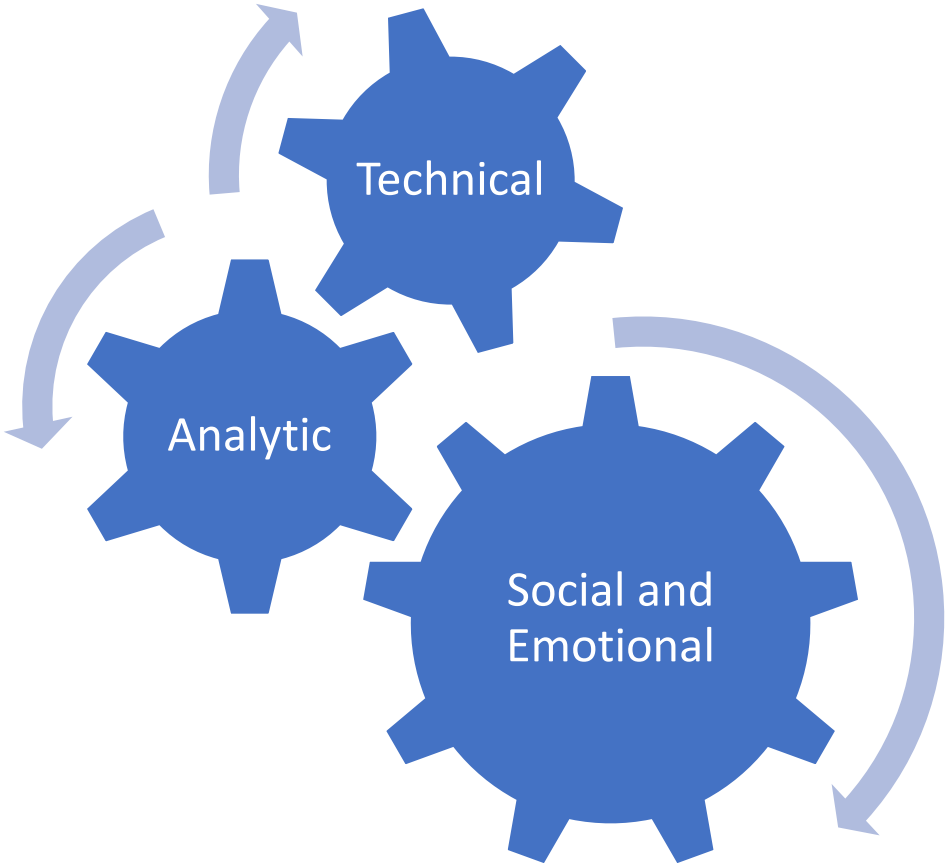
My argument

Success in graduate school means developing...

- 1. Technical skill** with the structures and techniques of meaningful prose
- 2. Analytical skill** to see the underlying purposes and structures in your discipline (especially in its written genres)
- 3. Social and emotional skill** to understand yourself as a “novice expert” in an academic community *that needs you for its future.*



The Gears of Grad School Writing





Social and Emotional Skill

Habits that Limit Growth

- Writing alone
- Imitating prose
- How can I impress these smart readers?
- I just need to follow the structure (IMRAD eg)
- Standard Written English is more powerful than I am

Habits that Encourage Growth

- Writing together, sharing drafts
- Experimenting with prose
- What do I have to discover today?
- The structure is for developing my own emergent argument
- I am part of language change



Analytic skill

My argument

An academic discipline is not just a body of knowledge. It's a community with its own ways of knowing and ways of communicating. You can become a part of this community –and make it better! –by learning to see the (often hidden) structures that make up these ways.

What do I mean by “structures”?

- Genres –the recognizable written forms in a discipline.

IMRAD: the basic genre structure of most disciplines in the sciences and social sciences



Introduction

Methods

Results

Analysis

Discussion

What does the IMRAD structure suggest about how scientists and social scientists **come to know** things?

What do I mean by
“structures”?

- Arguments –have recognizable patterns.
 - Begin with a gap (problem statement)
 - The gap is addressed by research, which has a method
 - The method results in new knowledge: the claim

What do I mean by “structures”?

Problem Statements are structures for identifying the gap –the need for research

- A. Most people believe that _____, but a closer look will show that _____.
- B. What we know about _____ is that _____; what we don't know is _____.
- C. If we do (not) understand _____, we will (not) understand _____.



Activity: playing with problem statements

Think about an article or book that you recently read, or are writing, for your graduate program.

Write out its problem statement using one of these templates (structures).

Share in your breakout room.

Reflect and discuss:

1. How easily did these templates seem to apply to the text you were working with? Did you find yourself changing the template to fit?
2. How does your problem statement compare and contrast with others in the group?
3. What do your problem statements suggest about the concerns and cultures of your disciplines?

Problem Statement are structures for identifying the need for research

- A. Most people believe that _____, but a closer look will show that _____.
- B. What we know about ____ is that _____; what we don't know is _____.
- C. If we do (not) understand _____, we will (not) understand _____.

What do I mean by “structures”?

Tip: Imagine yourself an anthropologist in your own discipline. What makes this culture “tick”?

- Genres and what they “do”
- Arguments and how they are structured
- Lots of other things, like the cultures of research design, the values of the discipline, the conventions of language...



Technical skill

My argument

Academic writing is easier when you have some mastery of a few technical skills for working with prose.

For example, most people think of academic prose as dull and repetitive. Well, they're right. It is repetitive. But mastering repetition with a purpose will help you develop the complex ideas that you are working with in graduate school.

What's "repetition with a purpose"?

Use "productive repetition" to add a little "twist" of meaning with each sentence. This technique helps your reader follow your thinking methodically.

For example, most people think of academic prose as dull and repetitive. Well, they're right. It is repetitive. But mastering repetition with a purpose will help you develop the complex ideas that you are working with in graduate school.



Which passage is better? Why?

- A) The basis of our American democracy --equal opportunity for all --is being threatened by college costs that have been rising fast for the last several years. Increases in family income have been significantly outpaced by increases in tuition at our colleges and universities during that period. Only the children of the wealthiest families in our society will be able to afford a college education if this trend continues. Knowledge and intellectual skills, in addition to wealth, will divide us as a people, when that happens. Equal opportunity and the egalitarian basis of our democratic society could be eroded by such a divide.
- B) In the last several years, college costs have been rising so fast that they are now threatening the basis of our American democracy—equal opportunity for all. During that period, tuition has significantly outpaced increases in family income. If this trend continues, a college education will soon be affordable only by the children of the wealthiest families in our society. When that happens, we will be divided as a people not only by wealth, but by knowledge and intellectual skills. Such a divide will erode equal opportunity and the egalitarian basis of our democratic society.

Which passage is better? Why?

- A) **The basis of our American democracy** --equal opportunity for all --is being threatened by college costs that have been rising fast for the last several years. **Increases in family income** have been significantly outpaced by increases in tuition at our colleges and universities during that period. Only **the children of the wealthiest families in our society** will be able to afford a college education if this trend continues. **Knowledge and intellectual skills, in addition to wealth**, will divide us as a people, when that happens. **Equal opportunity and the egalitarian basis of our democratic society** could be eroded by such a divide.
- B) In the last several years, **college costs** have been rising so fast that they are now threatening the basis of our American democracy—**equal opportunity** for all. During that period, **tuition** has significantly outpaced increases in family income. If this trend continues, **a college education** will soon be affordable only by the children of the **wealthiest** families in our society. When that happens, **we will be divided** as a people not only by **wealth**, but by **knowledge and intellectual skills**. **Such a divide** will erode **equal opportunity** and the egalitarian basis of our democratic society.

More Technical Skills to Develop

- Clarity –helping your reader easily follow what you are saying
- Cohesion –staying on topic
- Coherence –tying one idea to the next

Work with a Graduate Writing Consultant on any of these!



Breakout Rooms!

To reflect and connect...

- What social and emotional strategies have helped you?
- What are the special writing demands in your discipline?
- What are you learning about the ways of knowing and ways of writing in your discipline?
- What do you want to ask your Graduate Writing Consultant?

Develop Technical Skill → Develop Analytic Capacity → Develop Social and Emotional Capacity

Technical Skills

- Clarity
- Cohesion
- Coherence
 - Productive repetition

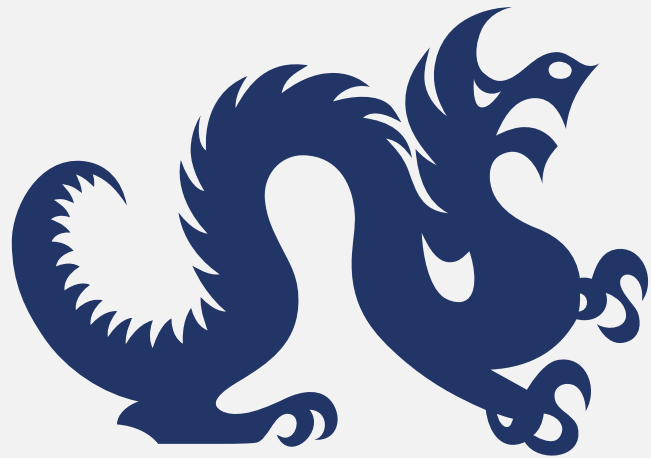
Analytical (or Rhetorical)

- Understand structures like arguments and genres
- Understand how writers construct truth within their texts (that is, how genres work)
- Write with positive relations with your readers

Social and Emotional

- Enjoy the process of becoming part of your disciplinary community
- Reduce stress
- Get what you came for!





DREXEL UNIVERSITY

Drexel Writing
Center

College of Arts and Sciences



DWC Mission

We support...

- all writers at Drexel
- in all stages of writing
- with any kind of writing



DWC
METHODS

We do it through...

- individual, one-on-one meetings
- focusing on the writer's own concerns
- in conversation and collaboration

All writing needs readers!



DWC programs



Peer Reader Program

Undergraduates working with undergraduates in one-to-one and small group sessions



Multilingual Faculty Reader Specialists

Professional tutors and faculty with expertise in multilingual learning work with undergraduate or graduate students in one-to-one sessions



Graduate Writing Consultants

Graduate students working with graduate students in one-to-one sessions



DWC programs



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Graduate Writing Consultants

Graduate students working with graduate students in one-to-one sessions

Got a big project?

- Dissertations, theses, and term papers take a lot of time to develop.
- Work with a Graduate Writing Consultant or Multilingual Writing Specialist with a regular series of appointments, over a period of time from a few weeks to a year.
- Contact Liz Kimball, Director, University Writing Program to initiate the process (ek674@Drexel.edu).



Our website:

www.Drexel.edu/writingcenter

General information about all DWC programs, how to use them, and best practices.



Scheduling website:

www.Drexel.mywconline.com

Direct link to schedule for online and in-person appointments

How to access DWC Programs



Expectations + Details

- While consultants will review grammar and help writers improve their mechanics, they will suggest working on higher order concerns first.
- We do not copyedit. We will be more directive with grammar when working with multilingual students.
- You do not need a draft.
- One appointment per week
- We are not experts in all citation styles but do provide resources on our website.
- Writers do need to present and be able to work during appointments.



Drexel Writing Center

First visit? [Register for an account.](#)
Returning? Log in below

AVAILABLE SCHEDULES

- Peer Readers, Fall 2019
- Faculty Reader ELL Specialist, Fall 2019
- Graduate Writing Consultants, Fall 2019

Check box to **stay logged in:** [?](#)

Fall, 2019

Welcome to a new academic year. The Drexel Writing Center is starting fresh with a new location. We have moved from MacAlister Hall to a beautiful new space on the first floor of the Korman Center! When you come through the double doors of Korman, please walk to your left and find us through the next set of double doors in Korman 100, 102, and 103.

Welcome to the Drexel Writing Center scheduling system. If you have never used the scheduling system before, you will need to register for an account by clicking the link to the left. If you have used the schedule before, you may need to re-register to update your student status.

Please use your Drexel alpha-numeric email address when registering for an account.

Current Schedules and information:

- Undergraduate Support (Peer Readers):** peer readers from various disciplines available for in-person and synchronous online appointments only; (writers may reserve a maximum of two appointments per day, two appointments per week)
- Graduate Support (Graduate Writing Consultants):** graduate students from various disciplines available for in-person and synchronous online

ACCESS TEXT-ONLY & MOBILE



Welcome to the Graduate Writing Consultants schedule. These appointments are for graduate students only (or those working on admissions essays for graduate school).

We have moved from MacAlister Hall to the first floor of the Korman Center. When you come through the double doors of Korman, please walk to your left and find us through the next set of double doors in Korman 100, 102, and 103.

Appointments are available in-person and online. Please be mindful of selecting the correct option according to what works for you.

For online appointments, you will reserve the appointment time, answer the questions about your project, and then attach your project to the appointment as prompted in the appointment window. You can come back to your appointment to attach a file at any point before the appointment begins. If you have reserved an online appointment, log in to this website approximately five to ten minutes before the start of your appointment. **Please use Firefox or Chrome as your browser and allow the system to access your camera and microphone. You can turn off the video/audio once in the session, if you choose.** Then, open this appointment (by clicking on the appointment on the schedule) and click "Start or Join Online Consultation". Follow onscreen instructions for using

Create New Appointment

Client

McCloskey, Janel (jfp48@drexel.edu)

To select a different client, begin typing a name or email above and then select from the resulting list.

Appointment Date

Tuesday, December 3, 2019: 3:00pm to 4:00pm [Show REPEAT Options](#)

Staff or Resource

Jean Murphy (Graduate Writing Consultants, Fall 2019)

APPOINTMENT LIMITS: Appointments must be 1 hour in length.
LOCATION: Korman, Room 100

Meet Online?

- No. Meet **face-to-face** at the center.
- Yes. Schedule **Online** appointment.

If you choose an online appointment, log back in to this website approximately five to ten minutes before the start of your appointment. Then, open this appointment and click "Start or Join Online Consultation."

Questions marked with a * are required. Questions marked with **ADMIN ONLY** are only available to and shown to administrators. (As an administrator, you can save an appointment without filling in required fields--except if those required fields are also tagged as administrator-only questions.)

Course Subject (ex. English Composition) *

Course Number (ex. ENGL 101) *

Instructor

View Existing Appointment

Client

Jessa Adiletto

Appointment Date

Monday, December 2, 2019

9:00am to 10:00am

ONLINE

CREATED: Nov. 19, 2019 11:51am by Jessa Adiletto

Staff or Resource

Satish (Online Only)

Post-Session Client Report Forms

[Add New](#)

LOCATION: Korman, Room 100

MEET ONLINE? ONLINE

If you choose an online appointment, log back in to this website approximately five to ten minutes before the start of your appointment. Then, open this appointment and click "Start or Join Online Consultation."

[START OR JOIN ONLINE CONSULTATION](#)

Course Subject (ex. English Composition)

Confronting Issues in Contemporary Healthcare Environments

Course Number (ex. ENGL 101)

NURS 500

Instructor

Jamie Sweet

Is this a required appointment?

no

What project are you working on?

Health Policy Advocacy Paper

What are your goals for the project?

Cohesive paper progression, thorough discussion of concepts

Where are you in the writing process?

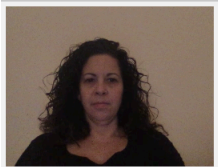


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Apps Drexel Connect Amazon.com: Onli... Mail - McCloskey,... Writing program Praxis: A Writing... ARP Readings Possible TC Read... Everyday Sites Other Bookmarks

B I U 1



1 WELCOME TO YOUR ONLINE CONSULTATION! Below is a brief overview of this module. For more information, click the question mark at the top
 2 right of the screen.
 3

4 WHITEBOARD: This area of the screen is the document collaboration whiteboard. Here, you can import or paste a document, or type text. Changes
 5 made to text in this window are highlighted and seen immediately by both individuals participating in the online consultation.

6 TEXT CHAT: You can use the area to the right of the screen to have a text conversation in real time. This means the other person in the module can
 7 see what you are writing as you type. Unchecking the 'send real time chat updates' box at the top will prevent your typing from being seen by the
 8 recipient until you hit 'enter.'

9 TOOLBAR: The icons on the left side of the toolbar allow you to work with a document's formatting. The icons on the right side (or at the bottom if
 10 using a phone) include options for your online session, such as importing or exporting a document. Hover over any icon for a text label showing the
 11 icon's function.

12 DRAWING TOOLS: Clicking the pencil icon allows you to draw on top of the whiteboard. Within the drawing area, you can change the brush, clear
 13 your drawing, or use a solid background. You can also import images and export the entire drawing area. On a computer, hover over the drawing area
 to expand it, and hover away from it to minimize it. On a touch screen, touch the pencil icon once to open the drawing function, twice to expand the
 drawing area, and a third time to close it.

AUDIO AND VIDEO: If your center has enabled audio and video consultations, you can click on the camera icon to allow the other participant to see
 and hear you. The first time you use audio and video, your browser may prompt you to allow the use of your camera and microphone in your session.

AFTER YOUR SESSION: Your chat transcript and document will be saved in this online meeting. You can always come back by viewing your
 appointment and clicking the 'start or join online consultation' link.

Chat

Send Real Time Chat Updates

type here to chat...

Thanks!

Thanks to our Graduate Writing Consultants:

Arunabh Choudhury

Alfreda Adote

Plus Deirdre McMahon and the Graduate College!

Questions or feedback? Write to Liz Kimball, ek674@drexel.edu