COLORADO TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

2018 DOCTORAL SYMPOSIUM

10/10/18 – 10/13/18

DISSERTATION WORKSHOP: EVIDENCE BASED WRITING

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Evidence Based Writing refers to a particular style of expression that researchers use to define the intellectual boundaries of their disciplines and their areas of expertise.

Characteristics of evidence based writing:

- Literature, abstract, keywords, methods, analysis, citations
- Need evidence to support your topic of study and concentration
- Include a formal tone
- Use of the third-person rather than first-person perspective (usually)
- A clear focus on the research problem under investigation
- Critical and analytical thinking
A paragraph is 4-5 complete sentences and has only one idea/thought. When you change idea/thought, you must change paragraphs.

Formula for Evidence Based Writing

One idea/thought per paragraph + evidence based writing = Scholarly Writing
THE MEAL PLAN

The MEAL Plan helps you organize the sentences in every paragraph

- Strong and thorough thoughts
- Presents a logic flow of clarity and understanding
- Strengthens your writing style

M = Main Idea
E = Evidence
A = Analysis
L = Lead Out
Main Idea: Your topic sentence stating the concrete claim the paragraph is advancing

First sentence of paragraph presents the theoretical underpinning of the paragraph

Example is, “Coding will allow for statements to be sorted by content of the concept, theme, or event, as opposed to sorting by the individual interviewee (Rubin, 2005).”
Evidence: Paraphrase or direct quotations from the source material you are using to support your topic sentence's claim

Second sentence of paragraph presents what is required or planned for the proposed study

Example is, “For the proposed study, frequency of text content will be used.”
A = ANALYSIS

Analysis: Your explanation and evaluation of the evidence; explaining the evidence you provided and its relevance in your own words

Third sentence of paragraph presents why your decision on what is required or planned for the proposed study is the appropriate decision, with supporting literature

Example is, “Through frequency of text codings, the proposed study will attach significance and prioritization to what was found, make sense of the findings, and offer explanations to various patterns that emerge from the data analysis (Patton, 2002).”
L = LEAD OUT

Lead Out: Concluding; preparing your reader to transition to the next paragraph (and the next claim)

Fourth sentence of paragraph presents the benefit(s) of your decision

Example is, “From the coding, patterns in the data will emerge representing themes, categories, and possibly exhibit characteristics of single-loop and double-loop learning (Argyris, 1974; Patton, 2002).”
RESULTS OF THE MEAL PLAN

Combining the individually created sentences, each with a different purpose, results in a well-crafted paragraph that is simple and clear.

Please consider the use of the concept in your writing to prepare paragraphs, such as the one that follows:

Coding will allow for statements to be sorted by content of the concept, theme, or event, as opposed to sorting by the individual interviewee (Rubin, 2005). For the proposed study, frequency of text content will be used. Through frequency of text codings, the proposed study will attach significance and prioritization to what was found, make sense of the findings, and offer explanations to various patterns that emerge from the data analysis (Patton, 2002). From the coding, patterns in the data will emerge representing themes, categories, and possibly exhibit characteristics of single-loop and double-loop learning (Argyris, 1974; Patton, 2002).
PARAPHRASING

When citing an article, an important concept is Paraphrasing. When you paraphrase, you are putting the phrase or sentence in your words, capturing the same meaning, and citing it properly.

When you write your dissertation, your Research Supervisor want to see more paraphrasing (giving credit to the author) versus using a lot of direct quotes.

A great link on Paraphrasing is:

Does the publication have a title, abstract, introduction, body and conclusion?

Are there spelling errors?

Are there grammatical errors?

Is the publication in the first person? Third person?

Reminder: CTU Learning Labs (Smarthinking and Grammarly are available)

How do you think bad composition effects the perception of credibility by the reader?
CRITICAL AND ANALYTICAL THINKING

Things to think about as you read:

- Are the authors assertions substantiated by facts or interpretation?
- Are the author’s assertions built on the body of knowledge or mere conjecture (opinions)?
- Is the publication objective? Is the author free from bias?
- How would you have improved this composition?
- Can this publication assist in the development of your research? Why or why not?
- Will the content of the publication augment or enhance your research question(s)?
- Has this publication changed your perception of your topic or research question?
SENTENCE STRUCTURE DO’S AND DONT’S

Don’t:
- Do not start a sentence with the word With
- Do not start a sentence with quotation marks
- Limit using the word That
- Each paragraph should be at least three – four complete sentences.
- Do not use Wikipedia in any of you work as it is not acceptable in academia.
- Do not use bullet points in an academic paper because it does not constitute a narrative flow
- Do not use Dictionaries as a legitimate source in your doctorate work. If you cite a dictionary, list it on your references page; however, it will not count as one of your required references. Note: Our challenge is to direct you to peer-reviewed, scholarly publications.

Do:
- Include an introduction in your paper that introduces the topic or question of concern and a brief explanation of what will be covered in the paper.
- Include a conclusion on all academic papers because it summarizes what you have stated in the body of your paper.
QUALITIES OF AN EVIDENCE BASED WRITER

- Time management (manage your time or it will manage you)
- Critical thinker (think inside, outside, and around the box)
- Proof and edit (spelling, punctuations, sentence structure, grammar)
- Communicator (able to convey your message in writing)
- Selecting a format for what you are writing
Blog Post on Citing:
Link on citing and ideas on how to change the author's attribution:

Website: http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2011/03/citing-paraphrased-work-in-apa-style.html

Blog Post on Time Management:
By: Dr. Rae Denise Madison
Grammarly & EndNote

Students can reach out to their assigned Doctoral Coordinator for assistance in obtaining Grammarly and Endnote software.

If assistance is needed for how to use these programs, contact the Doctoral Library staff.

Email - doctoralreference@coloradotech.edu
Phone - 719-590-6708

Smarthinking

Online tutoring provided by the University for English and Statistics at the Doctoral level.
Located in the Virtual Campus under the Learning Center tab.

APA 6th Edition
DOCTORAL LIBRARY

Important departmental contact information

Dissertation resources and toolbox

IRB resources

Research databases – specific to the students programs.

Writing assistance – Endnote, Grammarly, Smarthinking, and APA!!!!!!!
THANKS FOR ATTENDING!

If you have any questions related to Academic Writing, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

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“Whatever you do, strive to do it well that no man living and no man dead and no man yet to be born can do it better.”

--- Benjamin E Mays
Thanks for Attending!!  Enjoy the remainder of Fall Symposium 2018