

Colloquium: Research, Writing & Argumentation (MS 9102) W 2024



Meeting time: Wednesdays 6-9pm; FNB-4100

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Office hour: Thursday 2-4pm (and by appointment)

Colloquium participants will discuss and produce examples of good scholarly prose. Scholarly writing embodies both social practice and individual labour. Too often, writing problems (e.g., writer's block) are "privatized" and dealt with in isolation, when in fact many writers experience them. Consequently, this colloquium aims to operate reflexively as a scholarly community, providing support and critical feedback to members.

Each colloquium participant will present: 1) an abstract and 2) two drafts (rough and revised) of a piece of academic writing related to the M.A. degree (e.g., IRP). Along the way, we will explore topics like author's voice, creative approaches, structure and organization, abstracts and summaries, jargon, effective sentences, and re-writing and copy editing.

Expectations:

There are four: read the readings and classmates' written submissions; attend regularly; share your ideas; submit three pieces of written work (abstract; rough & revised drafts)

Required texts:

Helen Sword, *Stylish Academic Writing* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2012) (In bookstore or buy online)

Howard S. Becker, *Writing for Social Scientists: How to Start and Finish Your Thesis, Book, or Article*, 2nd ed. (University of Chicago Press, 2007). (I will email you a PDF of two chapters)

Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings	Presentations
Jan 10	Introductions/Logistics		
Jan 17	“The Horror...The Horror”	Becker, <i>Writing for Social Scientists</i>, 1-25, 43-67	
Jan 24	“In sum, ...” Abstracts and Proposals	Sword, <i>Stylish Academic Writing</i>, 3-11, 147-158	Discuss: Submitted Abstracts/proposals
Jan 31	Voice and Structure	Sword, 35-47, 122-134	Draft Presenter 1
Feb 7	Stories, Characters, Telling	Sword, 87-111	Draft Presenter 2
Feb 14	Lean, Smart Sentences	Sword, 35-47, 112-121	Draft Presenter 3
Feb 28	Luring Readers	Sword, 63-86	Draft Presenter 4
March 6	Creative Licence	Sword, 159-176	
March 13	Presentations		Revised Draft 1
March 20	Presentations		Revised Draft 2
March 27	Presentations		Revised Draft 3
April 3	Presentations		Revised Draft 4