GRAD-SCHOOL SURVIVAL

Building Blocks of Academic Papers

Betsy Wallace

• Thursday, July 30, 1000–1100

Not sure how an analysis differs from an argument? How an introduction should be different from a conclusion? How a thesis statement differs from an abstract? Are you unclear about the role of alternative explanations, what goes in a bibliography, what to footnote other than sources, or the point and structure of a literature review? Come learn how the building blocks of academic papers fit together, making your papers more readable and complete.

Understanding Paper Types and Prompts

Chloe Woida

• Saturday, July 18, 1000–1100

You’ve just received a prompt for a class paper. You read it once, then twice, and still can’t figure out what you’re being asked to do or what kind of paper you’re supposed to write. Sound familiar? This workshop will identify types of papers you may be asked to write at NPS and offer strategies for decoding and understanding instructors’ prompts.

How to Give a Classroom Presentation

Michael Thomas

• Monday, August 10, 1000–1130

Most graduate students will, at some point, have to deliver an oral report. Knowing what to say and how to say it is a challenge. Here, you’ll learn to forge a powerful presentation, penetrate to the core of your subject, and pull it off in style. We will identify the elements of strong and weak presentations, suggesting ways you can improve your own oral communication.

Reading with Intent, Level I: Social Sciences and Business

Kate Egerton

• Tuesday, July 21, 1300–1430

• Saturday, July 25, 1000–1130

• Friday, July 31, 1000–1130

• Friday, August 14, 1000–1130

So much reading, so little time! Learn and practice Dr. Zach Shore’s method of reading for argument at the graduate level in this workshop, tailored to social science and business fields. Dr. Shore’s “search and destroy” technique allows you to comprehend and synthesize an author’s arguments efficiently. Level I teaches the “search” half—how to quickly extract an author’s thesis and structure from an academic article. Though this method may take time to perfect, once you do, the payoff is high in terms of comprehension, time saved, and enhanced critical thinking skills. Also, be sure to check out Reading with Intent Level II, which offers techniques for analyzing sources’ arguments.

Mastering Note-Taking and Time Management

Cheryldee Huddleston

• Wednesday, July 22, 1500–1630

• Tuesday, July 28, 1300–1430

You take notes and learn the subject matter, so why is it so difficult to communicate your knowledge during tests? And where does all the time go? Knowing a few key strategies can make all the difference. This workshop will provide you with winning techniques for studying more effectively, taking useful notes, preparing for exams, and performing better during tests; you’ll also receive practical, step-by-step methods for a “time investment” daily schedule.
Reading with Intent, Level I:Kate Egerton  
STEM Fields  
- Monday, August 3, 1000–1130  
Zoom  
So much reading, so little time! Adapted from Dr. Zach Shore’s method of reading for argument at the graduate level, this new workshop is tailored to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields. Learn and practice reading techniques that allow you to comprehend and synthesize an author’s arguments efficiently. This workshop teaches how to quickly extract an author's thesis and structure from an academic article. Though this method may take time to perfect, once you do, the payoff is high in terms of comprehension, time saved, and enhanced critical thinking skills. Also, be sure to check out Reading with Intent Level II, which offers techniques for analyzing sources’ arguments.

Technical WritingKate Egerton  
- Wednesday, August 12, 1000–1130  
Zoom  
Are you more comfortable solving equations than drafting sentences? Come focus on the precise skills you need to write clear technical reports and theses. In this workshop, we will dissect a well-written report, decide what makes it effective, identify steps you can use to emulate its features, and review editing and proofreading strategies appropriate for technical writing.

Paraphrasing and Quoting Like a ProSandra Leavitt and Greta Marlatt  
- Monday, July 27, 1000–1130  
Zoom  
- Thursday, August 6, 1300–1430  
Zoom  
You’ve all heard what you shouldn’t be doing: don’t violate the Honor Code, don’t plagiarize, don’t forget the rules of academic integrity. This workshop focuses on what to do to avoid these serious problems. We give you the skills to confidently incorporate others’ words, ideas, analyses, models, and images into your own writing. You will gain experience summarizing, paraphrasing, and incorporating quotations from source material.

Library Quick StartKathy Norton  
- Tuesday, July 14, 1200–1250  
Zoom  
- Wednesday, July 22, 1200–1250  
Zoom  
Develop your research skills and learn how to use the library search, library databases, research guides, Google Scholar, and more!

CRITICAL THINKING

Debating with Your Sources: They Say/I SayCheryldee Huddleston  
- Monday, August 3, 1300–1430  
Zoom  
Do your academic readings make you feel like an outsider? Don’t remain an unheard voice in the wilderness: learn how to construct your paper as a “conversation with others.” In this workshop, inspired by the popular writing book, They Say/I Say, you will learn through hands-on activities the methods that scholars use to engage in larger debates. Your readers will understand you better, and you will stand on equal footing with the writers in your field.

Reading with Intent, Level II Betsy Wallace  
- Monday, July 27, 1300–1400  
Zoom  
- Tuesday, August 4, 1500–1600  
Zoom  
Level II teaches the “destroy” half of Dr. Shore’s “search and destroy” technique. Learn how to critically examine a text for its strengths and weaknesses.
NEW! Crafting Convincing Arguments: Attack and Defense  
Daniel Lehnherr

• Saturday, August 1, 1000–1130  
• Wednesday, August 5, 1000–1130

You employ persuasion every day, but are you comfortable crafting formal academic arguments? This workshop covers the strategies and conventions of written argumentation that are essential to your NPS studies and career. Hands-on exercises help you organize your lines of attack, remedy any gaps in your defense, anticipate your adversary’s counterargument, and deliver the decisive blow through a convincing refutation.

NEW! Critical Thinking in Review  
Alison Scharmota

• Friday, August 7, 1000–1130

Imagine a conversation among all the scholars who have contributed to your research topic. Assessing the strengths, weaknesses, agreements, and disagreements of their combined wisdom is the essence of a literature review. Using the Just War Theory, this workshop presents two examples of capturing the “conversation” and helps you identify the differences between review and critical analysis. Through guided discussion, you will be better equipped to understand and write literature reviews.

My Glory Never Dies:  
Cheryldee Huddleston

• Friday, July 17, 1300-1500

The Trojan War/Battle of Agincourt:  

Through the arts and stories of the military, develop your critical thinking skills. In the Trojan War/Battle of Agincourt workshop, listen to selections from Homer’s The Iliad, watch filmed scenes from Euripides’s tragedy, The Trojan Women, and Shakespeare’s famous “St. Crispin’s Day Speech” in Henry V and Renaissance Man, as we explore the concepts of courage, honor, and glory that have defined the lives and careers of military officers throughout centuries.

The U.S. Civil War  

Through the arts and stories of the military, develop your critical thinking skills. In the U.S. Civil War workshop, watch selections from the film Glory and filmed scenes from the play, The Andersonville Trial, and read Walt Whitman’s “Civil War poetry,” as we explore the concepts of courage, honor, and glory that have defined the lives and careers of military officers throughout centuries.

World War II:  

Through the arts and stories of the military, develop your critical thinking skills. In the World War II workshop, watch selections from the films The Best Years of Our Lives, Catch-22, Saving Private Ryan, and Dunkirk, as we explore the concepts of courage, honor, and glory that have defined the lives and careers of military officers throughout centuries.

The Cold War and Vietnam:  

Through the arts and stories of the military, develop your critical thinking skills. In the Cold War/Vietnam workshop, watch selections from the films Dr. Strangelove: Or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb, The Deer Hunter, and Apocalypse Now, as we explore the concepts of courage, honor, and glory that have defined the lives and careers of military officers throughout centuries.

Iraq and Afghanistan  

Through the arts and stories of the military, develop your critical thinking skills. In the Iraq/Afghanistan workshop, watch selections from films, including The Hurt Locker and Lone Survivor, as we explore the concepts of courage, honor, and glory that have defined the lives and careers of military officers throughout centuries.

PLANNING AND ORGANIZATION

Beyond Brainstorming: How to Kickstart Your Paper  
Chloe Woida

• Thursday, July 23, 1000–1130

Stumped when you face a blank page? Acquire tried-and-true techniques for starting a paper: brainstorming, clustering, concept mapping, pre-writing, and outlining. Master practical methods to clear the cobwebs and stare down that blank page. By trying out the various techniques during the workshop, you will discover which ones work best for you.

writingcenter@nps.edu  Register at https://my.nps.edu/web/gwc  (831) 656-3682
**Organization: The Secret to Academic Writing**  
John Locke

- Wednesday, July 29, 1300–1400  
- Tuesday, August 4, 1000–1100

Academic, or research-based writing is distinct from other forms of writing: our primary purpose is to describe knowledge, which, at the graduate level, is most likely to address the logical connections between ideas—a task that calls for structured writing. This workshop introduces basic techniques that produce readable papers—comprehensive introductions, topic sentences, and embedding structure in language—and effective tools for composition. You will learn a systematic process for learning and writing that will focus your effort where it counts the most.

**MECHANICS, GRAMMAR, AND STYLE**

**Building Better Sentences, Level I**  
Colette O’Connor

- Thursday, July 30, 1300–1430  
- Tuesday, August 11, 1300–1430

If you daydreamed through the grammar lessons of your schooldays, take heart: through clear and simple explanations, we demystify terms and concepts that seasoned writers take for granted, focusing on enhancing sentence structure by defining sentence elements, patterns, and the active voice. Because Building Better Sentences focuses on making already correct sentences better, we recommend you take (or request materials for) the Mastery Series—Grammar, Punctuation, and Clarity and Concision—beforehand if you want a refresher on writing fundamentals. Then, after this workshop, in just 90 minutes, your ideas and sentences will shine that much more brightly!

**Mastery Series: Grammar**  
Jasmine Mally

- Saturday, August 8, 1000–1130

Review examples of common grammar errors students make in their writing. The common errors covered include subject-verb agreement, use of relative clauses, connecting and punctuation of clauses, pronoun-antecedent agreement, and spotting and changing passive voice to active. You’ll first learn the rule to avoid or fix these errors, then practice it in a hands-on activity.

**Mastery Series: Punctuation**  
Michael Thomas

- Thursday, August 13, 1300–1430

Small symbols with great power, punctuation marks can do it all—connect ideas, convey tone, clarify meaning. Used incorrectly, however, they can undermine your writing, distract and confuse readers, and diminish confidence in your academic work. In this workshop, we cover the most common punctuation marks in graduate writing. Examples, quizzes, and detailed explanations ensure that you leave with a solid grasp of everything from em dashes to Oxford commas—including that most mysterious mark of all, the semicolon.

**Mastery Series: Clarity and Concision**  
Colette O’Connor

- Thursday, August 6, 1000–1130

Learn which conventions are rules, NPS norms, and style tips, all of which will help you masterfully put your words to work for you! Excellent clarity and concision stands as the core goal at the graduate and professional level of writing, so we have put together some writing master tips to make your life easier and your writing sassier in just 90 minutes.

**Strategies for Active-Voice Writing**  
Matt Norton

- Wednesday, August 5, 1300–1430

Overusing passive voice is one of the most common stylistic blunders in academic writing; it can be hard to identify and tricky to fix. At the same time, passive voice does have its uses. This workshop will explain what passive voice looks like and why in most cases active constructions are a better choice. Lessons and activities will show you how to transform passive-voice sentences and also identify situations when you might want to use them. You will leave with strategies to select the best possible verbs, to craft more interesting prose, and to express your ideas more clearly.

**THESISWRITING**

**Constructing Research Questions**  
Sandra Leavitt

- Thursday, July 16, 1000–1130

Constructing a research question is probably the most important task for any paper you write. An overly broad question becomes mission impossible, while an excessively narrow question won’t help fill the pages. Learn strategies for identifying answerable, interesting questions. A compelling research question will keep you motivated and your reader engaged.

writingcenter@nps.edu  
Register at https://my.nps.edu/web/gwc  
(831) 656-3682
**Mastering the Literature Review**

John Locke

- Monday, July 20, 1000–1130
- Zoom

A master’s degree requires mastering a field, and that mastery is demonstrated in a literature review, a required component of most theses and many papers. It is not, as is often believed, a multi-title book review. It is, rather, a comprehensive evaluation of the literature relevant to your research question. More than a summary, it identifies strengths and inadequacies in the existing literature, which dovetails with your goal of adding new knowledge to your field. In this workshop, you will learn how literature reviews are constructed and how to make yours justify your research.

**Thesis Quick Start**

Glen Koué

- Wednesday, July 15, 1200–1250
- Zoom
- Tuesday, July 21, 1200–1250
- Zoom

Is it time to begin your thesis? Not sure how to start? This workshop will cover academic research and writing in general, as well as the specifics of the NPS thesis process. Learn how to navigate the process and launch your thesis with confidence.

**Professional Executive Summaries**

Abby McConnell

- Thursday, July 23, 1300–1400
- Zoom
- Wednesday, July 29, 1000–1100
- Zoom

The quality of your executive summaries influences how others perceive you and your research. Executive summaries publicize your work, provide busy decision makers with actionable information, and generate readers for your research. Learn how to prioritize and organize essential information, avoid jargon, write more powerfully and persuasively, and navigate this specific form’s rules. By examining excerpts, we will identify best practices and apply those lessons to summarizing research in different fields.

**Illustrating Your Thesis with Figures and Tables**

Matt Norton

- Thursday, July 16, 1500–1630
- Zoom

Master the art of knowing when and how various kinds of graphics – diagrams, graphs, photographs, tables – can clarify a process for the reader or illustrate an argument. Learn guidelines for making effective visuals, explaining them in your text, and placing them in the thesis template. By examining some student figures, you’ll see how design and annotations help the reader appreciate a figure’s meaning.

writingcenter@nps.edu  Register at https://my.nps.edu/web/gwc  (831) 656-3682
Take a break, exercise your imagination, and build community!

“My Glory Never Dies”: The Military in Literature, Film, and Onstage
Cheryldee Huddleston

All classes will be held via Zoom from 1300 – 1500.

• Friday, July 17  Part I: The Trojan War/Battle of Agincourt
• Friday, July 24  Part II: The U.S. Civil War
• Friday, July 31  Part III: World War II
• Friday, August 7  Part IV: The Cold War/Vietnam
• Friday, August 14  Part V: Iraq/Afghanistan

Students can enroll in single sessions or in all. Faculty and staff welcome.

Join lively discussions that strengthen your analytical skills and stem from your own responses and questions. Through the arts, develop your critical thinking as you explore the ancient concepts of courage, honor, and military glory, which have defined the lives and careers of military officers for centuries. Experience a compelling sampler of literature and performances—live, filmed, and audio—that have influenced Western culture and even military policy.

The workshop will be guided by Dr. Cheryldee Huddleston—GWC writing coach, playwright, and arts facilitator.
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