Pre session polls

What level of study are you?

- Access
- Level 1
- Level 2
- Level 3
- Postgraduate

What would you consider is your main area of study?

- Arts
- Languages (English & other)
- Social sciences
- Business and law
- Science
- Engineering or technology
- Maths
- Health sciences
- Education
- Sports
- OTHER

Have you been to any student hub live online events before?

- Yes last year
- Yes this year
- Yes other
- No (but have listened to one or more recording)
- No (didn't have time)
- No (wasn't aware of before now)

What are student hub live online sessions?

- All student hub live sessions are non modular and focus on skills relevant to study at university level

- We (Karen and Isabella) are both tutors and share these sessions between us

- All polls are anonymous to other participants but the chat box will have your logged in name associated with your comments

- Please be aware that all online sessions are recorded. These recordings are then available on a public facing website (student hub live can be accessed by anyone who registers on our site whether a current student or not)

- We discuss the session topic for approx the first half hour before moving to small group discussion and learning from those. *Small group discussions are not recorded.*

Initial polls

What is your main reason for coming along this evening?

Academic writing 101

the student hub live

What is academic writing?

- Please give your ideas about what is meant by the term academic writing in the short answer poll available

- Next suggest what makes academic writing different from, for instance, writing to a friend in the short answer poll available

Academic writing is…

- factual and to the point
- objective (not opinionated or subjective)
- not flowery (unless creative writing!)
- acknowledging sources
- appropriately planned and structured
- specific to the question you are answering
- convincing the reader that you know and understand that question and are answering it accurately

Academic English

- This is more formal than everyday English.

- Look for specific module guidance as some modules have prepared primers & pre-module guides or part of their module or faculty guide which covers expectations for academic English.

- Studenthome study skills section https://help.open.ac.uk/developing-academic-english

This was our advert…

Writing academically is a skill that underlies the demonstration of successful learning in higher education but isn't always thought about for itself. In this interactive SHL session we will look at some of the key features of academic writing and explain how to develop your academic writing skills. We'll give a tutor's impression of what works well when communicating as well as the student viewpoint on how to achieve this. There will be plenty of opportunity for interaction and small group sessions to discuss what is being talked about and learn from your fellow students.

Narrative voice

- In the case of the text just shown, that was a narrative voice as the purpose was not academic writing, it was advertising

- In this case don't do as we did.

- You can also compare text to how I speak.

- In SHL we are discussing skills and showcasing how to use them, but in a narrative fashion

Language and structure

- 'Big word bingo' is not appropriate

- Sentences have ~10-15 words

- Paragraphs have 100-300 words but should always be focused on a single topic each

These are not hard and fast rules but broad guidelines as a starting point

What to include?

- Read your TMA instructions and use the sources that you are asked to use (not others that you might like and not material from other modules)

- Clearly relate the answer to the question (but not the question says this so I am answering that)

- Take cues on style from what you are asked to do – e.g. short answer q (<50 words) or longer prose (500+)

Tutor tips!

- Make sure you say what you meant to say, not what was 'in your head'

- We hear "but that's what I meant" a lot ☺

- You cannot assume your reader will automatically know what you mean if you are not clear, or have difficulties with spellings / grammar

- Don't just word drop because you have seen the word in the module, make it clear that YOU know what it means

- Tutors invariably don't need to know what *I, we, you* think / did – you need impersonal language

Academic third person

- Try rewriting the advert excerpt below in academic third person. Please use the short answer poll provided

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Common knowledge

- What is your understanding of the term common knowledge? (please use the short answer poll provided)

- It's information that you would be expected to know in your situation, without having studied the module.

- In other words anything that you would be learning *from* the module is not common knowledge so may need to be explained, and referenced.

Referencing poll

- Suggest what the purpose of referencing is

What is referencing?

- Referencing has 2 parts – an in text citation and the full reference details.

- The in text citation indicates that a piece of information, idea or fact has been drawn from a specific named source.

- The reference details give the full details of what that source is and where it can be found.

- *The actual format of this does differ according to module and subject which reflects the requirements of the overall academic world.*

Referencing is not

- …a way of getting out of writing in your own words. An essay that is a string of quotations, even with a matching string of citations, is not your own work so would not be appropriate at university level.

OU Harvard

- In general it is the OU Harvard style which is maintained by the OU Library at https://learn1.open.ac.uk/mod/oucontent/view.php?id=15025

- This follows the author's name and date convention (Henman and Foley, 2018).

- One example might be to reference the recording of the understanding the question workshop as (Henman and Foley, 2018) and then in the final reference list.

- Henman, I., and Foley, K. (2018) 'student hub live understanding the question', *Adobe Connect recording for student hub live* [Online] Available at https://learn1.open.ac.uk/mod/connecthosted/viewrecordings.php?id=19619 [Accessed 12 October 2018]

Referencing specifics

- **Always read the instructions provided by your module / faculty / degree as there are differences so pay attention to specific instructions.**

- **We cannot discuss any specifics here as there are too many different possibilities to cover them all**

Discussion activity

- What are some of your challenges in academic writing? Make a list of some of the areas you are concerned about and discuss ways you may be able to overcome them.

- Please bring back a few points that you can share with the rest of the group.

You will have different modules and topics so this is about the approaches to writing at an appropriate academic level

Useful points for breakouts

- We suggest you use the first couple of minutes to introduce yourselves and get used to the room. Choose a volunteer to keep the discussion on track and feed back to the main room

- Remember to activate your microphone to speak

- There will be 13 minutes for the breakouts overall – we'll send regular reminders to let you know how long you have got left

Remember to check the number of the room you are in (shows at top of chat pod as "chat x breakout y") in case of connection issues and for bringing back information.

Chat 71 - Breakout 4

Breakout activity

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This session is currently in breakouts (small groups).
If you have experienced connection problems from your breakout room then please indicate the room number you were in via the chat box and we will pop you back.
If you are just arriving in this room and have missed the main recorded session then please log back out of the room and view the recording when it is available.

So….

- What can people share from their sessions?

Final polls

What do you feel is the main thing you will take away from this evening?

What are you going to do as a result of this evening's session?

Which of the following elements of tonight's session did you find useful?

- Tutor led explanation
- Opportunity to chat in text chat box
- Opportunity to suggest ideas in polls
- Breakout room (discussion with / learning from other students)
- Breakout activity (considering a task in more detail)
- Any other aspect (please give details in chat)

Upcoming sessions in our student hub live skills based Adobe Connect session:

Critical thinking and writing – going beneath the surface

24-10 20.30-21.30 (CURRENTLY *FULLY BOOKED but will be recorded)*

28/11 details tba

Broadcast session 22-10 10.00-13.30 – The deconstructed essay

Past student hub live online sessions here
Visit us at
http://studenthublive.open.ac.uk/
Send us feedback at
studenthub@open.ac.uk
View past (live) recordings on
www.youtube.com/thestudenthublive