IIT ROORKEE

NPTEL ONLINE CERTIFICATION COURSE

EFFECTIVE WRITING

Lecture 09: Essentials of Academic Writing, Part 1

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Requirements of Academic Writing

- Researching
- Evaluating information
- Organizing
- Arguing
- Responding to others' arguments

Contd.

- Analyzing, and expressing yourself clearly in writing
- Unnecessary complicated
- Too much technical
- Impersonal and authoritative

Essentials of Academic Writing

- Titles : Announce, question, quote, guidelines, alliteration, comparisons, mystifying
- Abstracts: a short summary
- Keywords: specifies and evokes interest
- Introduction: Background, limitations, plans, divisions
- References : APA, MLA, IEEE, Vancouver

Contd.

Weissinger, T. (1989). Reference Books Relating to Afro-American Literature: A Selected Bibliography. *Black American Literature Forum, 23*(1), 187-192.

Speck, Bruce W.,Teresa R. Johnson, Catherine Dice, and Leon B. Heaton. *Collaborative Writing: An Annotated Bibliography.* Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1999.

[1] W. Brown, "Electrical Design Considerations," in *Advanced Electronic Packaging: With Emphasis on Multichip Modules*: Wiley-IEEE Press, 2013, pp. 51-74.

Speck, BWM, Johnson TR, Dice CP, Heaton LB. Collaborative writing: an annotated bibliography. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1999.

- Footnotes: mostly in humanities
- More extensive than references

Beginning to Write

- Not of the heart but also of the head
- Getting your ideas on paper
- Freewriting : expressing your ideas spontaneously

The first time I write a draft of a paper… I totally let go and rant and rave and say unprofessional things, including swear words. Later I go back and change it to something more acceptable for my academic audience. My theory is that the new, more professional words will still carry the original energy of the first draft, and so even my final ácademised' version will have more oomph than if I tried too hard to control my initial reactions the first time round.

(Cassitty via Elbow and Belanoff, 2000: 387)

Literature Review

- Shows the extent of research carried out
- Provides basis for further study
- Unveils strengths and weaknesses
- Helps in understanding the gaps/inadequacies
- Provides opportunities for further research

Conference Papers

- ‘the essential launching pad for nearly all scholarly careers’ (Gould, S.J, 1995)
- Spoken form of the paper
- Handouts
- Power Point

Book Reviews

- Hidden phrases
- Word limitations

❑ Information

Complete details of the book

- Title, author, publisher, date and year of publication, ISBN, pages and price

Khovanova, Tanya. Review of *Love and Math: The Heart of Hidden Reality*, by Edward Frenkel. *The College Mathematics Journal*, vol. 45, no. 3, May 2014, pp. 230-231. *JSTOR*. doi: www.jstor.org/stable/10.4169/college.math.j.45.3.230.

Somssundari, Lata S. Rev of. *Multiple Waves by* Binod Mishra. New Delhi: Adhyayan Publishers & Distributors, 2017. pp.xii + 51. Rs. 200. PB. ISBN: 978-81-84355-04-8.

Requisites of a Standard Book Review

- To present overall evaluation of the content
- To point out the merit and pitfalls of the book
- To introduces the book to the readers
- To offer an unbiased view to augment reader's interest in the book

Things to avoid

- Discussing the entire content
- Use of slangs/abusive/satirical language
- Eulogizing the author

A Sample Review

Funny, provocative and decadent: Aravind Adiga's "Last Man in Tower" is the kind of novel that's so richly insightful about business and character that it's hard to know where to begin singing its praises.

That Adiga knows economics well should come as no surprise. After all, he worked as a financial journalist for Time magazine in India, and his first novel, "The White Tiger," reveled in the darker consequences of a world turned flat. The story described a servant seduced by visions of wealth who murders his way out of poverty. It was as popular as it was controversial in India, and in Britain it captured the Man Booker Prize.

Last Paragraph

- Adiga's novel isn't perfect. He traces his characters' wicked impulses more convincingly than he details their occasional surges of virtue, and the book's final, hopeful note feels largely unearned. But these are small flaws compared with the novel's many delights and its unusually evenhanded take on urban development. As Adiga told the Times of India, "Money itself is amoral. It can liberate people as easily as it can destroy them." In "Last Man in Tower," we watch it do both.

From the Horse's Mouth

- As you know, the question we writers are asked most often, the favourite question, is: why do you write? I write because I have an innate need to write! I write because I can't do normal work like other people. I write because I want to read other books like the ones I write. I write because I am angry at all of you, angry at everyone. I write because I love sitting in a room all day writing. I write because I can only partake in real life by changing it. I write because I want others, all of us, the whole world to know what sort of life we lived, and continue to live, in Istanbul, in Turkey. I write because I love the smell of paper, pen and ink. I write because I believe in literature, in the art of the novel, more than I believe in anything else. I write because it is a habit, a passion. I write because I am afraid of being forgotten. I write because I like the glory and interest that writing brings. I write to be alone. Perhaps I write because I hope to understand why I am so very, very angry at all of you, so very, very angry at everyone. I write because I like to be read. I write because once I have begun a novel, an essay, a page, I want to finish it. I write because everyone expects me to write. I write because I have a childish belief in the immortality of libraries, and in the ways my books sit on the shelf. I write because it is exciting to turn all of life's beauties and riches into words. I write not to tell a story, but to compose a story. I write because I wish to escape from the foreboding that there is a place I must go but – just as in a dream – I can't quite get there. I write because I have never managed to be happy. I write to be happy.

(Orhan Pamuk)

Thank You