IIT ROORKEE

NPTEL ONLINE CERTIFICATION COURSE

EFFECTIVE WRITING

Lecture 10: Essentials of Academic Writing, Part II

BINOD MISHRA

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



Research Paper

- A research paper is a specialized form of expository writing in which a writer attempts to add to the accumulation of the world's scholarship by making some definite statement based upon a careful study of already existing data or ideas on a particular topic.

- Four writing drivers:
- ✓ Interactivity and dialogue
- ✓ Knowledge creation and extension
- ✓ Achievement ,output and approval
- ✓ Flow

(Rowena Murray and Sarah Moore, *The Handbook of Academic Writing*)

Well begun is half done

- Experiment with different kinds of writing
- Make them your stepping stone

According to Keith Hjortshoj, ‘anxieties about writing may come from seeing it as *an end*; and excitement about writing may come from seeing *it as a means*.’

Abstract

- Identifying the field of study
- Approach
- Gaps
- Work plan

Choosing Your Topic

- Intriguing
- Narrowing
- Look for available resources
- Primary and secondary data

Writing

- Find the thesis statement
- Note-making
- Construct an outline
- Organize
- Make use of F.D.R technique

Giving Shape

- Research paper is much like an expository essay
- Has three parts namely Introduction, body and conclusion
- Introduction should have thesis and not argument
- Conclusion should avoid paraphrasing and quoting

Discussion

- Systematic explanation having topics and sub topics
- Supported by evidence
- Introduce your points
- Use quotations and paragraphs in the text, identifying the author
- Brief quotation to be enclosed in quotation marks
- A quote over three lines to be indented

Contd.

- W.B. Yeats' poem The Second Coming not only presents the horrendous reality of an age but of all ages. Despite the chaos and confusion prevailing around, the poet longs for the freedom waiting in the form of spiritual transformation:

> Turning and turning in the widening gyre
> The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
> Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
> Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
> The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
> The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
> The best lack all conviction, while the worst
> Are full of passionate intensity.[5]

Writing a Thesis

- Similar to academic article
- Thesis writers are less skilled
- Varies within different discipline
- Arts and social sciences thesis emphasize on arguments

Contd.

- Examine two or three theses
- Keep writing from the start
- Discuss your work with people of your discipline
- Keep back ups
- Continue to interact with your supervisor

Some Important Tips

- Keep your readers in mind
- Use simple but standard language
- Maintain sequence
- Avoid negatives and too many abbreviations
- Vary sentence length
- Share your writing with experts in your field
- Remember to read and revise

Some Tips

- Procrastination is the thief of time;
  Year after year it steals, till all are fled,
  And to the mercies of a moment leaves
  The vast concerns of an eternal scene. (Edward Young)

- ✓ Structure your writing
- ✓ Continue to write every day
- ✓ Avoid distractions
- ✓ Avoid being a perfectionist
- ✓ Limit social interruptions
- ✓ Read and revise your writing

Thank You