

RES 095: TERM PAPER TUTORIAL

Instructor: Stephanie Hall
September 12, 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Location: TBA

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DESCRIPTION

Graduate-level thinking, argument, and style are expected from written assignments submitted at ACTS. Students who have been away from academics for a period, who have a technical rather than humanities background, or who speak a first language other than English may find this a challenge. This morning-long tutorial is intended to introduce or refresh graduate-level writing skills.

Because areas such as formulating research questions and strategies are the focus of the compulsory RES 500: Research Strategies course, the main focus of this session will be on the mechanics of writing good term papers. Questions to be addressed include:

- What makes a graduate term paper “graduate”?
- How do I structure my term papers?
- How do I write effective paragraphs?
- What are common pitfalls in syntax and style, and how can I avoid them?
- How do I make good use of my sources?
- What is “tone,” and how can I adopt an appropriate one in my papers?
- How do I format my papers?
- How do I avoid frustrating my professors?
- How can I learn to enjoy (or at least survive) the writing process?

OBJECTIVES

As a result of this tutorial, the student will:

- appreciate what it means to write term papers at the graduate level
- gain an understanding of appropriate structure, including introduction, body, conclusion
- learn the purpose of a paragraph
- become aware of common writing errors
- be introduced to issues of tone and voice
- be encouraged to adopt a writing process that works for him or her

RESOURCES

There are no required textbooks for this course. Students attending the session will receive handouts covering the course material, including a bibliography of excellent writing references.

A few of these include:

Troyka, Lynn Quitman. *Simon & Schuster Handbook for Writers*. 4th Canadian ed. Scarborough: Prentice Hall Allyn and Bacon Canada, 2006.

Truss, Lynn. *Eats, Shoots & Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation*. New York: Gotham, 2004.

Canada, Translation Bureau. *The Canadian Style: A Guide to Writing and Editing*. Rev. and exp. ed. Toronto: Dundurn Press Limited, 1997.

Badke, William. *Research Strategies: Finding Your Way Through the Information Fog*. 2nd ed. Lincoln: iUniverse Inc, 2004. (Condensed online version available at www.acts.twu.ca/lbr/textbook.htm)

Websites:

William Badke, "Writing Research Essays In North American Academic Institutions – A Guide for Students of All Nations," http://www.acts.twu.ca/lbr/research_essays.htm

Diana Hacker, A Writer's Reference. www.dianahacker.com/writersref

Claremont Graduate Writing Center. www.cgu.edu/pages/726.asp