Writing and Research Workshops

Summer 2010

The Graduate Writing Center offers a wide variety of general writing workshops and workshops on more specialized issues. We also hold targeted writing workshops for graduate students in the areas of Humanities & Arts, Social Sciences, and Sciences & Engineering. Special thanks to our campus programming partners: UCLA Library, Writing Programs, Academic Technology Services Statistical Consulting Group, Student Psychological Services, and the Career Center.

- Research & TA Workshops
- General Writing Workshops
- Dissertation Workshops
- ESL Workshops
- Past Workshops
- Summer Boot Camps (current)
- Summer Boot Camps (past)

Research Workshops

Information Literacy Workshop for UCLA Graduate Student TAs

Esther Grassian, College Library estherg@library.ucla.edu

This interactive workshop will provide you with tips and techniques for improving your students' information researching and critical thinking skills through demo, hands on, and review of a sample syllabus enhanced with information literacy assignment ideas. By using some of these tips and techniques, you'll save time working individually with students in helping them learn how to conduct research and avoid plagiarism. Students armed with information literacy skills should be able to...

* select, narrow and broaden a research topic
* describe the differences between popular and scholarly publications
* identify useful databases to search for information on their topics
* conduct efficient, effective searches
* identify useful research materials, by applying evaluative criteria
* describe several reasons for citing information
* avoid plagiarism by recognizing when to cite, and by citing according to the style required for their research papers

Space is limited. Please RSVP for one of these sessions:

Tuesday, September 14th, 1 pm to 3 pm
http://bit.ly/9s5ZZQ

OR

Wednesday, September 15th, 1 pm to 3 pm
http://bit.ly/amGgOc

The RSVP confirmation will include the location and a URL for a brief survey that will help Esther address the topics that interest you.
If you cannot make it to one of these sessions, you may be interested in the "Teach Information Literacy & Critical Thinking!" guide Esther created that describes many information literacy teaching tips and techniques, some of which will be demonstrated and discussed during the workshop: [http://guides.library.ucla.edu/content.php?pid=33500&sid=245471](http://guides.library.ucla.edu/content.php?pid=33500&sid=245471)

Library Research Appointments for Graduate Students
Graduate students are welcome to contact Library's subject specialists any time for further assistance with research, library resources, and subject databases. [Contact information for subject librarians](http://guides.library.ucla.edu/content.php?pid=33500&sid=245471).

To see the most current and complete schedule of UCLA Library workshops, consult the UCLA Library seminar page.

Statistical Software Workshops
ATS Stats Consulting Seminars and walk-in consulting:
For walk-in consulting information, Stat books for loan, and the most up-to-date listing of seminars, please see the [ATS Stats Group website](http://ats-stats.ucsd.edu). Click [here](http://ats-stats.ucsd.edu) for more detailed location information, including directions to the Visualization Portal in the Math Sciences building.

General Writing Workshops

**How to Overcome the Dreaded `Writer's Block' – Practical Tips to its Gentle Extermination**

*Rob Sullivan, Geography (Former Creative and Professional Writer)*

Ever have writer's block? Come on, be honest: we all have. This workshop offers practical tips on how to first befriend, then overcome, and finally dispel the pangs of writer's block.

**Wednesday, July 21st, 2:00-3:45pm**

**Location:** Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) ([map](http://ats-stats.ucsd.edu))

**Revision Workshop: Strategies for Revising Longer Texts**

*Marilyn Gray, Graduate Writing Center Coordinator*

This hands-on workshop will provide people with revision strategies for longer texts, such as master’s theses, dissertation chapters or proposals. Please bring a hard copy of your own work, at least 15-20 double-spaced pages (more is fine). If you would like to do some of the preparation work ahead of time, start working on a backwards outline by tagging each paragraph with a phrase describing its main point.

**Thursday, July 22nd, 2:00-3:45pm**

**Location:** Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) ([map](http://ats-stats.ucsd.edu))

**How to Make an Argument**

*Rob Sullivan, Geography*

The workshop will discuss how to make, situate, and qualify arguments appropriately in graduate-level academic writing. Participants will learn what the basic components of any solid argument are and how to structure them into a coherent, persuasive whole. They will practice constructing their own arguments and analyzing arguments from scholarly articles. If participants would like to practice analyzing arguments in their own fields, they should bring one or two scholarly articles to the workshop.

**Wednesday, July 28th, 2:00-3:45pm**

**Location:** Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) ([map](http://ats-stats.ucsd.edu))

**Editing Skills Workshop**

*Marilyn Gray, Graduate Writing Center Coordinator*

This hands-on workshop will guide people through strategies for improving writing at the sentence level. We will look at common problems like the overuse of weak verbs, passive voice, and nominalizations as well as offer specific tips to strengthen clarity and flow. Please bring a hard copy of your own work, at least 5-10 double-spaced pages (more is fine).
An Introduction to Publishing Journal Articles

Mac Marston, Archaeology

Thinking about preparing an article manuscript for submission? Based on Wendy Belcher's workbook, *Writing Your Journal Article in 12 Weeks*, this workshop will focus on the aspects of the process of getting an article published that most differ from other graduate work, such as selecting appropriate journals and interacting with editors. We will discuss how to structure an article as well as the writing and revision process.

How to Write an Abstract: Concrete Recommendations

Netta Avineri, Applied Linguistics & TESL

This session will help any graduate student write the abstracts required for journal articles, conference papers, and fellowship applications. We will consider the elements of convincing abstracts in various disciplines. Then, you will assemble your own abstract, piece by piece. For speakers of other languages, strategies for English-language abstracts will be analyzed. If possible, please bring a draft of your article or paper for this hands-on workshop.

Dissertation Workshops

Revision Workshop: Strategies for Revising Longer Texts

Marilyn Gray, Graduate Writing Center Coordinator

This hands-on workshop will provide people with revision strategies for longer texts, such as master’s theses, dissertation chapters or proposals. Please bring a hard copy of your own work, at least 15-20 double-spaced pages (more is fine). If you would like to do some of the preparation work ahead of time, start working on a backwards outline by tagging each paragraph with a phrase describing its main point.

Getting Started on the Dissertation: How to Get Going and Keep Going (Sciences and Quantitative Social Sciences Focus)

Marilyn Gray, Graduate Writing Center Coordinator

This workshop gives an overview of organization, time management, writing process issues and writing strategies. Recommended for people in the early stages of the dissertation, but useful for all stages.

ESL Workshops

Dissertation Writing Strategies for ESL Graduate Students

Netta Avineri, Applied Linguistics & TESL

In this interactive workshop, ESL graduate students will learn strategies to get through the dissertation process. In addition, we
will discuss useful on-campus, online, and print resources that will help students to work independently to improve their writing. There will also be time for questions and answers about ESL writing issues and concerns.

**Wednesday, August 18th, 2:00-4:00pm**
**Location: Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) (map)**

**How to Write an Abstract: Concrete Recommendations**
*Netta Avineri, Applied Linguistics & TESL*

This session will help any graduate student write the abstracts required for journal articles, conference papers, and fellowship applications. We will consider the elements of convincing abstracts in various disciplines. Then, you will assemble your own abstract, piece by piece. For speakers of other languages, strategies for English-language abstracts will be analyzed. If possible, please bring a draft of your article or paper for this hands-on workshop.

**Wednesday, August 25th, 2:00-4:00pm**
**Location: Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) (map)**