

ACADEMIC WRITING

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- IEI – Language for Specific Purposes (SPRÅK), English
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COURSE STRUCTURE

TDDE32 – ENGLISH LANGUAGE THREE SECTIONS

- 9.9: Lecture on Academic Writing
- 24.9: Seminar – English tips
(initial paper review - live)

13.9: Lecture on library research

8.10: Writing workshop

FOCUS OF THIS COURSE

Improvement by practice

Improvement by learning

Improvement by feedback

Improvement by providing feedback
to your peers

OUTCOMES

Understand how to write a sound, coherent, academic body of work

Understand how to write with the correct register (tone/tense)

Understand how to communicate effectively and efficiently

Understand how to reflect on your own work and work of your peers

Understand how/where to find help if needed

LIBRARY SESSION

- How to use relevant search tools to plan and conduct efficient information search
- How to evaluate and choose relevant information sources for research reports.

PREPARATION FOR THE SEMINAR 2021.24.9

- Read the three assigned articles on sustainability
- Prepare bullet list on most important claims
- Prepare your own argumentation around one claim

Hand in before seminar: Upload to LISAM > Submissions

AT THE SEMINAR

We will work on both the assignment above and your first drafts of the essay in real time – paying attention to both language and content.

The main individual feedback on your essays will be given in written form before the WORKSHOP and live and through peer review in the workshop

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SEMINAR ASSIGNMENT

READ THESE ARTICLES

R. Heinberg, *The Post Carbon Reader: Managing the 21st Century's Sustainability Crises*, ch. "What Is Sustainability?" Watershed Media, 2010.

J. Rockström et al., "A Safe Operating Space for Humanity," *Nature*, vol. 461, pp. 472-475, September 2009.

D. Griggs et al., "Sustainable Development Goals for People and Planet," *Nature*, vol. 495, pp. 305-307, March 2013.

MAKE BULLET LIST OF MAIN CLAIMS

Pick out 3-5 central claims in each of the three papers

Briefly outline your own argument, question and critique the claims the author makes in the article:

EXMAPLES:

- Can you argue for a different perspective?
- Can you argue for a hidden complexity of one of the article's claims?
- Can you take one of the claims one step further and outline its consequence(s)?

Submit (LISAM > Submissions) before the seminar

WORKSHOP - 2021.9.10

- I will provide individual written feedback before the workshop on submissions received 2021.9.27 (Sections 1-2)
- You should review my comments in preparation for the workshop and come prepared with questions
- We will address some general issues with these submissions
- We will discuss peer review as a resource for improving and learning
- We will work on your text in your peer response groups
- We will look at citations and references

REMEMBER

The resources for teacher feedback on the language are limited

You have an individual responsibility to make use of all available aids to create clear and grammatical texts

Peer response is the main source of feedback on the writing, which means you need to be active both in receiving and giving peer response during the course.

A photograph of a desk with various items. In the foreground, an open notebook with a black pen resting on it. The notebook's right page shows a list of numbers: 08.00, 09.00, 10.00, 11.00, and 12.00. In the background, a stack of papers or a calculator is visible, and to the right, a portion of a smartphone is seen. The scene is lit with soft, natural light.

WRITING AS COMMUNICATION

IMPORTANCE OF LANGUAGE

1. Who is reading this?
2. What presumptions are you making?
3. What terms will you have to define?
4. How will the language drive your message?

THE IMPORTANCE OF WRITING

Many academics/engineers/scientists spend between 1/3 and 1/2 of their work time engaged in various types of writing.

Proposals	Technical Reports
Regulations	Case Studies
Critical Reviews	Progress Reports
Project work	Emails
Essays	Memos

Academic writing means one must be able to communicate in a convincing, effective, credible manner both in speaking and in writing with different actors who have different knowledge.

HOW WRITING ISSUES REFLECT ON THE AUTHOR

Careless, confusing language causes misunderstandings and undermines the author's credibility.

Poor structure shows a lack of ability to formulate ideas in a cohesive manner.

Poor citational and referencing techniques leave room for questioning an author's credibility.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

What jargon will the reader know? Not know?

Which information needs explanation?

How can I inspire them to read further?

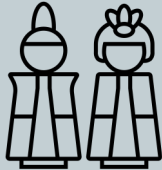
Communicate effectively : **WRITE WITH YOUR READERS IN MIND**

Which English should I use? (British/American)



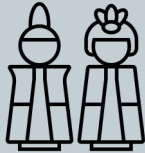
MATRYOSHKA DOLL TECHNIQUE

EACH PART IS STRUCTURED AS A MINIATURE OF THE WHOLE

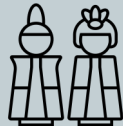


WHOLE PAPER

(all 5 Parts)



PART



SECTION

(Intro, subsections, body paragraphs,
conclusion)



PARAGRAPH



SENTENCE



WORD



ESSAY STRUCTURE

INTRODUCTION

- Introduces the topic
- Sets the essay in a context – gives background
- Explains the problem and/or motivation for the essay
- States the aim/s of the essay
- Briefly outlines the report structure



The aim is to inspire your reader to want to read the paper

BODY

Presentation of your position

- Presents the main arguments and supports them with examples, evidence, and source that support your position.
- The structure of the body is dependent on the type of argument and information included.

The body can also include

- Arguments/ideas (of others) that go against the main thesis
- Arguments for why those contradictory arguments are incorrect, invalid, etc.

CONCLUSION

- Brings essay to closure
- Often sums up arguments in different words
- Can be a call for action, relate the main topic or argument to a larger context, suggest ideas for further research or other applications

FUNCTION OF THE ESSAY

- The essay is generally argumentative but could be more descriptive/comparative/analytical
- Shows comprehension of what you read
- Shows development of information

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- The essay section should NOT be written as an answer to specific questions nor as a scientific report.
- The essay SHOULD be written as an essay that includes the information required.
- Assessment criteria for the essays are on the course website. Review these to understand what areas you should emphasize in your essay.



WRITING COHESIVELY

PARAGRAPH STRUCTURE

A **paragraph** is a series of sentences that are organized, coherent, and are all related to a single topic. A well-organized paragraph supports or develops a single controlling idea, which is expressed in a sentence called the topic sentence.

It generally has three parts:

1. topic sentence (INTRO)
2. supporting sentences (BODY)
3. concluding sentence (CONCLUSION)

I. TOPIC SENTENCE (INTRO)

The **topic sentence** states the main point. It can be the first sentence of a paragraph, or it can be elsewhere in the paragraph.

- A broad general statement or claim
- The main theme of the paragraph

EXAMPLE:

There are many reasons why pollution in Paris is the worst in the world.

2. SUPPORTING SENTENCES (BODY)

Supporting sentences develop the main theme of the paragraph (the topic sentence/intro).

To do this cohesively try these techniques:

- Repeat key words or phrases
- List ideas
- Chain ideas
- Refer to the subject

EXAMPLE:

There are many reasons why pollution in Paris is the worst in the world. **This city** has the highest number of...

TECHNIQUE: LISTING WITH REPETITION

As I jogged along the river this morning, I thought of all the different roads my friends take to get to their destinations. I thought of Ruth, who is headed to the university, I thought of Max, who is going to her job as a journalist. I thought of...

CAREFUL – you want to avoid too much repetition – just enough to make your point. Use sparingly for best effect.

TECHNIQUE: CHAINING WITH REFERENCES

The process of learning is essential to our lives.

- All higher animals seek it deliberately.
 - They are inquisitive and and like to experiment.
- CAREFUL: sometimes the use of too many pronouns in a sentence can lead to confusion. At some point you must refer again to the original subject
 - In this case, we might wonder who or what "They" refers to

TECHNIQUE: LINKING/TRANSITION WORDS

REINFORCEMENT

Desktop computers are cheaper and more reliable than laptops; **furthermore**, they are more flexible.

RESULT/CONSEQUENCE

Prices fell by more than 20% last year. **As a result**, sales increased by 15%.

GENERALIZING

On the whole, his speech was well received, despite some complaints from new members.

CONTRAST

The southeast of the UK often has the coldest weather in the winter. **Conversely**, the northwest of Scotland frequently has the mildest temperatures.

CONCESSION

It was a very expensive trip, The weather was bad and the people were not very friendly. **Nevertheless**, we would probably go back to the same place.

3. CONCLUDING SENTENCES (CONCLUSION)

Concluding sentence(s), can paraphrase the topic sentence, provide a summary or conclusion, or smoothly lead into the next paragraph.

* Always check to see that there are connections between your paragraphs – do not just jump from one idea to the next. Have you used appropriate transition words? Is there a clear flow between the paragraphs?

PARAGRAPH EXAMPLE

Gold, a precious metal, is prized for two important characteristics. Gold has a lustrous beauty that is resistant to corrosion. It is suitable for jewelry, coins, and ornamental purposes. Gold never needs to be polished and will remain beautiful forever. A Macedonian coin remains as untarnished today as the day it was minted twenty-three centuries ago. An important characteristic of gold is its usefulness to industry and science. It has been used in hundreds of industrial applications. The most recent use of gold is in astronauts' suits. Astronauts wear gold-plated heat shields for protection outside spaceships. Gold is treasured not only for its beauty but also for its utility.

PARAGRAPH EXAMPLE EDITED

Gold, a precious metal, is prized for two important characteristics. First, gold has a lustrous beauty that is resistant to corrosion. Therefore, it is suitable for jewelry, coins, and ornamental purposes. Gold never needs to be polished and will remain beautiful forever. For example, a Macedonian coin remains as untarnished today as the day it was minted twenty-three centuries ago. Another important characteristic of gold is its usefulness to industry and science. For many years, it has been used in hundreds of industrial applications. The most recent use of gold is in astronauts' suits. Astronauts wear gold-plated heat shields for protection outside spaceships. Given this, it is clear why gold is treasured not only for its beauty but also for its utility.

PARAGRAPH STRUCTURE & LINKS

Gold, a precious metal, is prized for two important characteristics. (TOPIC SENTENCE) **First**, gold has a lustrous beauty that is resistant to corrosion. **Therefore**, it is suitable for jewelry, coins, and ornamental purposes. Gold never needs to be polished and will remain beautiful forever. **For example**, a Macedonian coin remains as untarnished today as the day it was minted twenty-three centuries ago. **Another** important characteristic of gold is its usefulness to industry and science. For many years, it has been used in hundreds of industrial applications. **The most recent** use of gold is in astronauts' suits. Astronauts wear gold-plated heat shields for protection outside spaceships. **Given this**, it is clear why gold is treasured not only for its beauty but also for its utility. (CONCLUSION SENTENCE)

GENERAL LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY



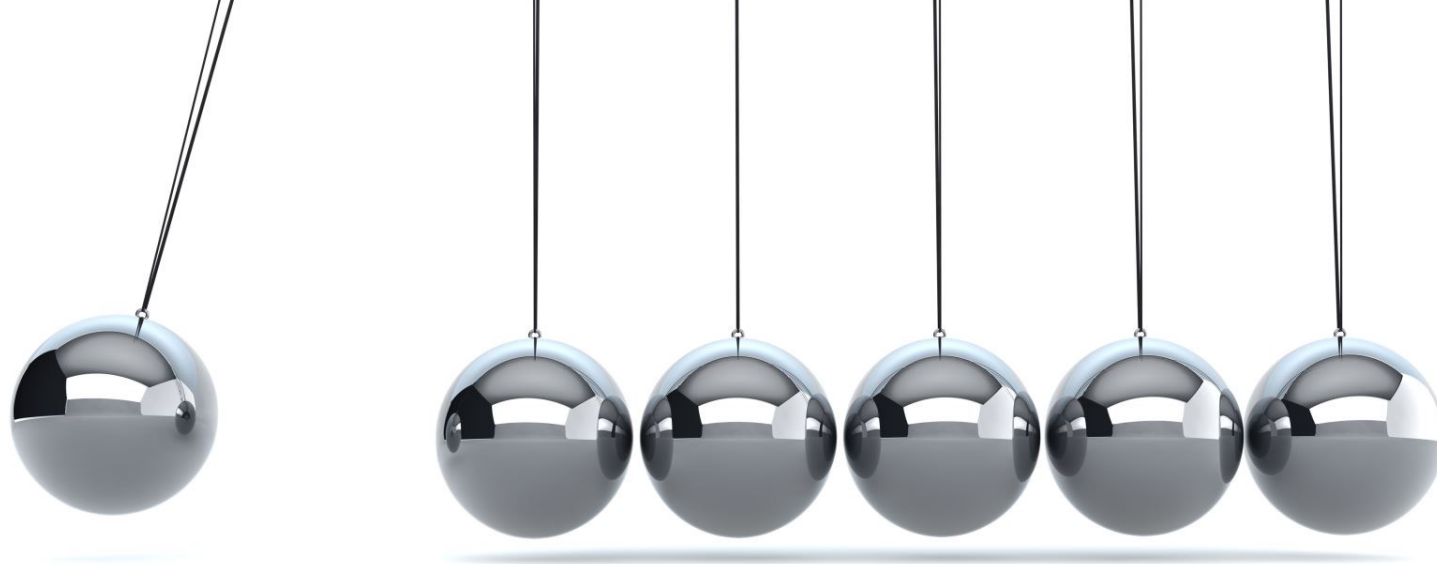
The course assumes that you have a good level of general English proficiency.



Minor mistakes in grammar and vocabulary will be accepted.



Mistakes in vocabulary and grammar that result in problems of understanding will NOT be accepted



LANGUAGE & GRAMMAR TIPS

See slides from Academic English Support for more tips

SUBJECT AND VERB - DISTANCE

Greenland, officially the world's largest island that is not a continent with 56,000 inhabitants who mostly live on the coast in settlements and cities and its own extensive local government in addition to two representatives in the Danish Parliament is part of the Realm of Denmark.

SUBJECT CLOSE TO THE VERB

Greenland, officially the world's largest island that is not a continent ~~with 56,000 inhabitants who mostly live on the coast in settlements and cities and its own extensive local government in addition to two representatives in the Danish Parliament~~ is part of the Realm of Denmark.

- **Greenland**, officially the world's largest island that is not a continent, **is** part of the Realm of Denmark. **It has** 56,000 inhabitants, **who mostly live** on the coast in settlements and cities, and its own extensive local government. **It also has** two representatives in the Danish Parliament

SUBJECT VERB AGREEMENT

RULE 1: Singular subject takes singular verb and plural subject takes plural verb.

→ *This is the most-commonly used rule on subject-verb agreement and will serve your purpose on most occasions.*

- New York is the host for the next sustainability conference.
- New York and Boston **are** the co-hosts for the next sustainability conference.

EXCEPTION 1: Singular subjects 'I' and 'you' take plural verbs. (EX. I never **eat** breakfast. You always **eat** breakfast.)

See these websites for rules and exceptions for subject-verb agreement:

- <https://www.grammarbook.com/grammar/subjectVerbAgree.asp>
- <https://lemongrad.com/subject-verb-agreement-rules/>
- <https://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/english-language/expressions-of-quantity/> (expressions of quantity rules)

OVERLY LONG SENTENCES RUN ON...

Ex. Home care has been expanding tremendously over the past few years partly due to recent technological advances that enable assessments and treatments to part of the home setting which at one time could only be performed within the hospital environment.

Home care **has expanded** tremendously over the past few years. **This increase** is partly due to recent technological advances **that have moved assessments and treatments from the hospital to the home.**

SENTENCE FRAGMENTS

- Occur when your sentences do not have: a subject, a verb or a complete idea

Ex. Although Mary was injured (**incomplete idea**)

Ex. Tom, an electrical engineer (**missing what?**)

Ex. As many of us do -----

Ex. To become an electronics technician.....(**incomplete idea**)

To become an electronics technician, Mark had to complete a two-year apprenticeship.

STYLE: FORMAL/INFORMAL

When I got my students to think science was wicked cool, their test scores went thru the roof! When I asked for their spin on their improvement, they just said the test felt like a piece of cake to them after I had implemented the new curriculum changes.

When I was able to **engage** my students and **get them interested** in science, their test scores **improved significantly**. I asked a few students **why they thought the scores had improved**, and they **admitted** that the test seemed **much easier** because of the new curriculum.

* **Avoid:** slang, sms spellings, colloquialisms, cliches, contractions (don't, isn't, it's...)

* **Avoid** first person voice: "we," "us", "you," "I" unless it is to distinguish your argument/claim from that of another author. Try to write in an objective voice.

* **Formal writing** is not the same as a blog post or an argument on social media, nor is it the same as a conversation or a presentation.

PRACTICE

Researchers looked at the way strain builds up around a fault.

Researchers **observed** the way strain **accumulates** around a fault.

The implementation of Computer-Integrated- Manufacturing (CIM) has brought about some serious problems.

The implementation of Computer-Integrated- Manufacturing (CIM) has **created** some serious problems.

REFERENCING: USING EXACT QUOTES

Cite and insert reference:

As was clearly expressed by Lars Ericsson: "Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore" (Ericsson 1978, p 23).

***Do not cite unless there is an important reason to use the exact original phrasing.

REFERENCING: PARAPHRASING

- When you rewrite a piece of text using your own words but retaining the general message
- Paraphrasing is plagiarism if the reference is left out OR if the wording is too close to the original
- Make sure you keep the gist of the original text (but not the wording of the text)!

PARAPHRASING CONT.

Paraphrasing examples

Original text (from Lu, 1997):

“Descartes hints that the world is controlled by a malicious demon who has employed all his energies to deceive him.”

Paraphrase:

Descartes thought that the evil power who rules the world may be creating an illusory experience in the beholder (Lu, 1997).

Not plagiarism: the text is fully rewritten, and a reference is provided

ASSIGNMENT OVERVIEW



- You need to show that you have read and understood the literature



- You need to be able to describe, explain, analyse and discuss the information.



- You are given instructions on what type of information you must include.



- You need to show that you can write a well-organized text, with a clear thesis that you develop according to general principles of a well-formed academic text, including making a clear argument.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SECTION I

- Explain using both general terms and by referring to specific scientific studies, the challenges that humanity faces currently.
- Provide a coherent view of how the ecological, social and economic dimensions are related to one another.
- Explain what we know about the consequences of failing to meet some of the major societal challenges by giving examples of what we project will be future consequences of, for example, climate change or an unequal distribution of wealth and income in the economy.

ON SUSTAINABILITY

- Explain what it means that some of these problems pose genuine dilemmas, reconciling what we do know of the consequences of, for example, climate change and biodiversity loss, and unknown future states for societies.

POSSIBLE FIRST PARAGRAPH

The term Sustainability is “that which can be maintained over time” [1]. Sustainable development is a development that “meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” [2]. Sustainability is often thought of as composed of three mutually dependent goals: (1) to live in a way that is environmentally sustainable, or viable over the very long-term, (2) to live in a way that is economically sustainable, maintaining living standards over the long-term, and (3) to live in a way that is socially sustainable, both now and in the future.

OTHER PARTS

The essay consists of the following parts:

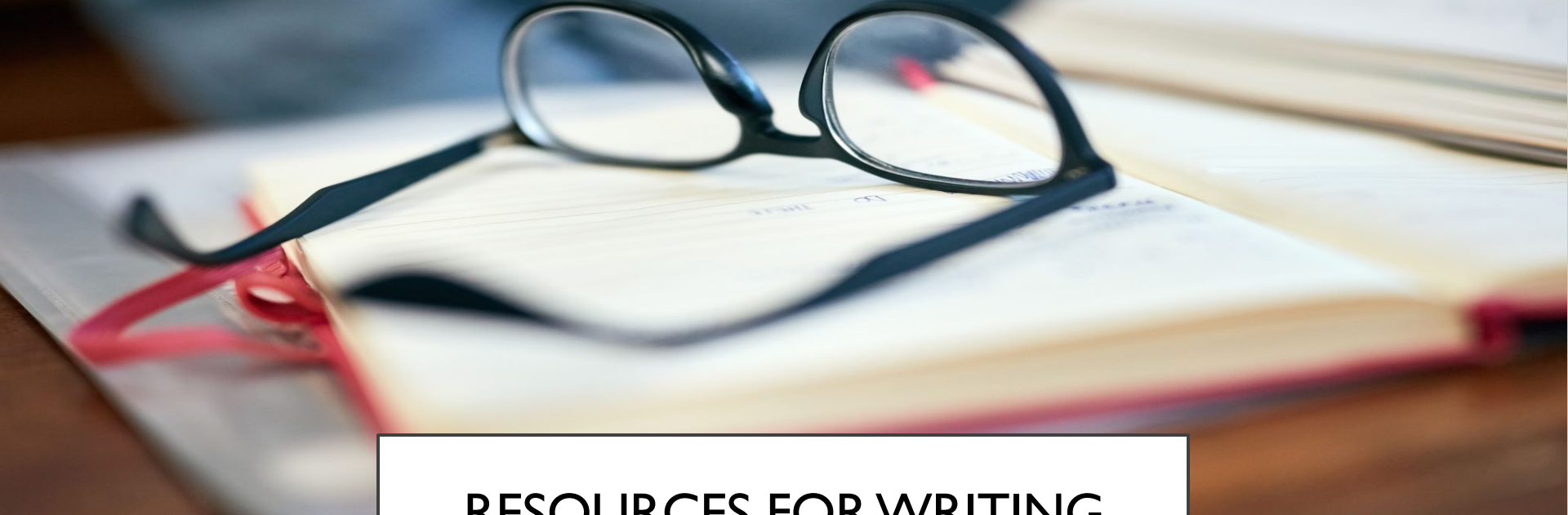
1. On sustainability
2. On societal problems and IT in society
3. On responsibility
4. On systems thinking
5. Assessing the effects of IT systems

Be aware of the other parts that will be included when you write each separate part, since in the end they will form a whole.



REMEMBER THE MATRYOSHKA DOLL TECHNIQUE

Each of the parts of your essay must eventually be fit into the whole



RESOURCES FOR WRITING

- Monolingual dictionaries
- Grammar books
- Thesaurus
- Style Manual (IEEE)
- Reference Guide (IEEE)

DICTIONARIES/GRAMMAR/THESAURUS

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/>

[https:// www.lexico.com/en](https://www.lexico.com/en)

<https://www.collinsdictionary.com/>

<https://www.merriam-webster.com> (dict. + thesaurus)

<https://www.ldoceonline.com/> (dict.)

STYLE GUIDE AND REFERENCE MANUAL

References

Find a reference guide for the reference system you will apply and use it consistently

IEEE Style manual

- http://ieeauthorcenter.ieee.org/wp-content/uploads/IEEE_Style_Manual.pdf

IEEE Reference guide

- <https://ieeauthorcenter.ieee.org/wp-content/uploads/IEEE-Reference-Guide.pdf>

ACADEMIC ENGLISH SUPPORT

- Offers individual guidance
- Information about plagiarism
- Language guidelines
- More information at:
<https://www.student.liu.se/studentstod/sprakstod?l=en>

GOOD LUCK!

Any Questions?

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