



UNC CHARLOTTE

Enhancing Your Academic Writing in English

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What is academic writing?

Academic writing is a social practice concerning the

- Display
- Evaluation
- Construction
- Negotiation

of knowledge within academic disciplines.

Hyland, K. (2004). *Disciplinary Discourses: Social Interaction in Academic Writing*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.





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Culture Affects Writing

U.S. American Cultural Values:

- Individualism
- Explicitness
- Self-reliance

Drawn from Lewis University. (2013). *Culture of the United States*. Retrieved on July 27, 2013 at: <https://www.lewisu.edu/student-services/iss/USACulture.htm>





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Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

UNC Charlotte (2009) defines plagiarism as "intentionally or knowingly presenting the work of another as one's own (i.e., without proper acknowledgment of the source)."

Center for Teaching and Learning, UNC Charlotte. (2014). Academic Honesty and Integrity. Retrieved on August 4, 2014 at: <http://teaching.uncc.edu/articles-books/best-practice-articles/academic-honesty-integrity>.





Plagiarism can include:

- Turning in someone else's work as your own.
- Copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit.
- Failing to put a quotation in quotation marks.
- Giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation.
- Changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit.
- Copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not.

Center for Teaching and Learning, UNC Charlotte. (2014). Academic Honesty and Integrity. Retrieved on August 4, 2014 at: <http://teaching.uncc.edu/articles-books/best-practice-articles/academic-honesty-integrity>.





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Consequences for plagiarizing at UNC Charlotte can include:

- A formal warning,
- A reduced grade (including "F" if undergraduate student and "U" for graduate student) for the assignment,
- A reduced grade (including "F" if undergraduate student and "U" for graduate student) for the entire course. For more information on plagiarism at UNC Charlotte, please visit the [Academic Policy](#).

Center for Teaching and Learning, UNC Charlotte. (2014). Academic Honesty and Integrity. Retrieved on August 4, 2014 at: <http://teaching.uncc.edu/articles-books/best-practice-articles/academic-honesty-integrity>.





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How can plagiarism be avoided?

The best way to avoid plagiarism is to simply “give credit, when credit is due.” Provide proper citation in both oral and written works when using:

- another person’s idea, opinion, or theory;
- any facts, statistics, graphs, drawings—any pieces of information—that are not common knowledge;
- quotations of another person’s actual spoken or written words;
- paraphrase of another person’s spoken or written words (Indiana University, 2004).

Center for Teaching and Learning, UNC Charlotte. (2014). Academic Honesty and Integrity.

Retrieved on August 4, 2014 at:

<http://teaching.uncc.edu/articles-books/best-practice-articles/academic-honesty-integrity>.





Strategy Focus: Writing

- Make sure that you understand exactly what the assignment requires before you begin:
 - Ask questions to clarify what you don't understand.
 - Request models or examples of completed assignments.
- Start early and make a plan:
 - Break down the writing assignment into the smallest “work chunks” possible.
 - Map out a schedule for completing each of these “work chunks” **before the due date**.
 - Do not procrastinate.





Strategy Focus: Writing

- Understand that writing is a recursive process:
 - Prewriting
 - Drafting
 - Revising
 - Editing
- Apply what you have learned about texts in a field of study to your writing in that field of study.
- Know your audience.





Strategy Focus: Writing

- Write regularly in English.
- Use English-only dictionaries and language-based resources.
- Seek feedback on the content and language of your writing:
 - Peers
 - Professors
 - Writing professionals
- Know the university's academic integrity policy.
 - Ask if you have questions about it.





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Campus-Based Resources for Writing: Undergraduate Courses

University Writing Programs (UWP)

- UWRT 1101: *Writing and Inquiry in Academic Contexts I*
- UWRT 1102: *Writing and Inquiry in Academic Contexts II*
 - Both courses are for native English speakers and those who do not speak English as a first language.
 - UWRT 1101 is a prerequisite for UWRT 1102.





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Campus-Based Resources for Writing: Graduate Course

Center for Graduate Life (CGL)

- GRAD 6010/8010: *Graduate-Level Writing for International Students*
 - This course is for graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and visiting faculty.
 - Only those who do not speak English as a first language are eligible to register for the course.
 - **The course is FULL for Fall 2015, so please consider registering for it in Spring 2016!**





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Campus-Based Resources for Writing: Individual Conferences

Writing Resource Center (WRC)

- Located in Cameron 125, with additional tutoring spaces on different parts of campus.
- Schedule a 45-minute appointment by signing up online:
<http://writing.uncc.edu/writing-resources-center/schedule-appointment>
- Bring both your assignment and paper.
- Tutors will help you to improve your writing, but they will not copyedit a specific paper for you. Rather, they will help you understand the strengths and weaknesses of your writing and make suggestions to improve it.





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Campus-Based Resources for Writing: Individual Conferences

Center for Graduate Life (CGL)

- Writing consultations for dissertation-level students, post-doctoral fellows and visiting faculty with Dr. Russell-Pinson: lpinson@uncc.edu





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Campus-Based Resources for Writing: Writing-Based Workshops

Writing Resource Center (WRC):

- Located in Cameron 125.
- Workshops for all students: <http://writing.uncc.edu/writing-resources-center>

Center for Graduate Life (CGL):

- Located in Cone 268.
- Workshops for graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and visiting faculty:
<http://gradlife.uncc.edu/workshops>





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Contact Us

- Dr. Russell-Pinson: lpinson@uncc.edu
- Center for Graduate Life: <http://gradlife.uncc.edu>
- Writing Resource Center: <http://writing.uncc.edu/writing-resources-center>

