

*Dr. Wicker's*  
**INTERNET RESOURCES**  
*for*  
**ACADEMIC WRITING**

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(KW) = ORIGINAL HANDOUT BY DR. KENT WICKER

### ACADEMIC WRITING IN GENERAL

- College writing websites are generally not geared toward graduate-level interdisciplinary work, but they still can offer a lot to the graduate-level writer. Some of the finest sites are:
  - **Purdue University** <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>
  - **University of Chicago** <http://writing-program.uchicago.edu/resources/collegewriting/>
  - **University of Toronto** <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/advise.html>
  - **Dartmouth College** <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~writing/materials/student/toc.shtml> has specific advice for humanities, science and social science types of papers.
- [Tips for Effective Writing](#) (kw)
- If you're interested in still more, check out Jack Lynch's Resources for Writers and Writing Instructors, at <http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Writing/links.html>, a rich compendium of links to reference engines, writing centers and other helpful sites for writers.

### INTERDISCIPLINARY LIBERAL STUDIES

- [Inductive Method](#) (kw)
- [The Academic Thought Process](#) (kw)
- [Academic Disciplines as Ways of Knowing](#) (kw)
- [Interdisciplinary Writing](#) (kw)

### THE ACADEMIC ESSAY

- [MALS Essay Format](#) (kw)
- **Introductions:** [Introductions](#) (kw); another model for intros can be found at <http://leo.stcloudstate.edu/acadwrite/intro.html>
- **Sections, Paragraphs and Transitions:** [Beyond Grammar](#) (kw) shows how sentences connect into paragraphs; [Paragraphs](#) (kw) examines how paragraphs work internally; a great site for looking at how paragraphs work together is the "Transitions" page at <http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/transitions.html>
- **Conclusions:** <http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/conclusions.html>, [http://www.uwc.ucf.edu/Writing%20Resources/Handouts/conclusion\\_ideas.htm](http://www.uwc.ucf.edu/Writing%20Resources/Handouts/conclusion_ideas.htm),

## RESEARCH

- **General:** [Using Sources](#) (kw) is my handout on the research process, concerning both primary and secondary research, as well as how to use and document it in your own writing.
- **Critical Reading:** [Making Notes](#) explains why note-taking is important. How do you read critically? These three pages offer some ideas: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/languages/1-6-8-5-2.html>; <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/notes.html>; <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/critrdg.html>
- **Resources:** Your first stop for research should be the Duke Libraries, at [www.lib.duke.edu](http://www.lib.duke.edu). This site not only lets you look at the Duke catalogue, it gives you access to innumerable databases, search engines and online journals. Particularly useful is the Duke Guide to Library Research, which you can access from the Duke Library homepage.
- **More Resources:** A really fantastic site for linking to a wide variety of academic sources, as well as for general reference, is the Voice of the Shuttle, at <http://vos.ucsb.edu/>. While it was originally designed as a humanities website, its Science & Technology section is quite useful. The E-Server, at [www.eserver.org](http://www.eserver.org), is also a good site for general humanities links, especially concerning culture, philosophy or literature.
- **Primary Texts:** The Great Books Index, at <http://books.mirror.org/gb.home.html>, is a sort of super-site, which links you to the many other sites (such as Bartleby.com) where you can now download classic texts from Aeschylus to the Quran to Woolf.
- **Citing Sources:** If your Turabian's not handy, a good overview of how to cite in various styles is our own Duke Library's page on Citing Sources, which you can access at [www.lib.duke.edu/libguide/citing.htm](http://www.lib.duke.edu/libguide/citing.htm).; also check out the University of Toronto cheat sheets for MLA (Humanities) and APA (Social Sciences) formats at <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/document.html>

## KEEPING UP WITH ISSUES

- **The Scout Report**, at [www.scout.cs.wisc.edu](http://www.scout.cs.wisc.edu), keeps track of the latest academic research links on the web.
- For keeping up with academic and cultural issues in general, don't forget **Arts & Letters Daily**, at [www.aldaily.com](http://www.aldaily.com), which I use as my homepage. If you're REALLY into academics, try the **Chronicle of Higher Education** at <http://chronicle.com>.

## WRITING PROCESS

- [Formulating a Central Question](#) (kw)
- **Invention:** These sites offer advice on getting the writing process started – from brainstorming to heuristics to coping with writer's block
  - **Michigan State** <http://www.msu.edu/course/atl/125/fernandez/studgi/heurlist.html>
  - **UNC-Chapel Hill** <http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/brainstorming.html>
  - **Cleveland State-Ohio** <http://www.csuohio.edu/writingcenter/invent.html>
  - **Texas A&M** <http://writingcenter.tamu.edu/content/view/17/14/>
- **Arrangement:** The Middleman offers a great metaphor for this crucial middle stage of the writing process.
- **Revision/Editing:** Good advice on looking at your own draft and improving it in the revision stage: <http://www.rpi.edu/dept/llc/writecenter/web/revise.html>

## ANALYSIS, ARGUMENTATION & RHETORIC

- **Critical Thinking:** Check out two great sites: **Critical Thinking on the Web** <http://www.austhink.org/critical/>, and **Field Guide to Critical Thinking** <http://www.csicop.org/si/9012/critical-thinking.html>, as well as [Analysis](#) (kw); [Critical Analysis](#) (kw)
- **Argumentation:** [Argument](#) (kw); Qualifying Your Claims: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/languages/1-6-8-7-2.html>
- **The Thesis:** To figure out how to write that thesis statement, check out these two sites: : <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/thesis.html>, <http://mciunix.mciu.k12.pa.us/~spjvweb/thesis.html>
- **Logical Fallacies:** What **not** to do: <http://www.csun.edu/~dqw61315/fallacies.html#Straw%20man>; <http://www.fallacyfiles.org>
- **Classical Rhetoric:** You're probably only into this if you're a writing teacher, but... If you want to learn more about the classical art of persuasion, visit the **Forest of Rhetoric** at <http://humanities.byu.edu/rhetoric/silva.htm>.

## SENTENCES, GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION

Most of the general academic writing sites above also feature good grammar and punctuation advice, but I have my favorites:

- **Punctuation:** Try <http://www.powa.org/editing/basic-punctuation.html>. And for fun, the **Gallery of "Misused" Quotation Marks** at <http://www.jvalamu.com/qmarks/index.html>
- **Grammar in General:** My favorite grammar site, probably because the advice is very commonsense and non-dogmatic, is Jack Lynch's, <http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Writing>.
- **Sentence Structure:** [Sentence Re/construction](#) (kw) covers building a sentence from the ground up.
- **Parallel Structure:** [Parallelism](#) (kw)
- **Agreement in Number:** [He, She & They](#) (kw) If you're really into grammar issues, there's a site called "Everybody Loves Their Jane Austen," [www.crossmyt.com/hc/linghebr/austheir.html](http://www.crossmyt.com/hc/linghebr/austheir.html), devoted to showing that Austen and other good writers regularly used the singular "they" and "their." (But don't try this in class, children!)
- **First Person Voice:** [First Person Voice](#) (kw)

## INTERVIEWING

- **Approval:** if you are going to be doing any interviewing, you will first need to contact Duke's Human Subjects in Research Committee, at [www.ors.duke.edu/irb/index.html](http://www.ors.duke.edu/irb/index.html).
- **Tips:** A well-designed site that offers both tips and guidelines for oral history interviewers is run by UNC-Chapel Hill's Southern Oral History Project. It can be found at [www.sohp.org/howto/index.html](http://www.sohp.org/howto/index.html).