Social Work Writing in Graduate School

A UW SSW Writing Center Workshop
Summer 2021
Workshop Guidelines

- Interact through the chat box or unmute yourself
- We will be recording the first part of this workshop for those who could not attend
- The presentation will be followed by a Q & A session
- Please share your full name, program (Day, EDP Weekend, EDP Evening, etc.), and year (1, 2, 3, etc.) in the chat box for us to complete or cross-reference with your registration information
  - You can also rename yourself to include your pronouns
- For closed captioning: Click “Live transcript” → “Show subtitle”
The Writing Team

Kylie Brief (she/they)
Booking Calendar: go.oncehub.com/KylieBrief

Erin Bernardy (she/her)
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Booking Calendar: TBD

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Workshop Overview

Navigating UW
- Writing Support and Other Resources

Offering Context
- Social Work Writing
- Writing in Graduate School in the U.S.

APA at a Glance
- APA Updates and Resources
How are you feeling about graduate-level writing?
Writing Support at UW

UW School of Social Work Writing Center

For Summer Quarter:
- One-to-one sessions are available remotely via email at: sswwrite@uw.edu
- Three tutors are available to you. Check out our bios at: socialwork.uw.edu/students/services/writing-tutors

For Autumn Quarter:
- Hybrid offerings include:
  - Virtual synchronous (recorded) workshops
  - In-person/virtual community events (Weekend Writing Circle)
  - In-person/virtual one-to-one sessions and drop-in advising
Writing Support at UW

UW School of Social Work Writing Center

- Making an Appointment:
  - Email sswwrite@uw.edu with your availability, assignment prompt, and what help you are seeking

- Check out the Writing Center website for helpful tips and resources:
  - socialwork.uw.edu/students/services/writing-support
Writing Support at UW

Odegaard Writing and Research Center

- Located in Odegaard Library

- Services offered online: [depts.washington.edu/owrc/](https://depts.washington.edu/owrc/)
  - One-to-one peer tutoring
  - Support for multilingual students
  - Support for graduate student writers
  - Support for Health Sciences students
Other Writing Resources

UW Libraries

- Odegaard
  - In Red Square
- Suzzallo and Allen
  - In Red Square
- Health Sciences
  - At 1959 NE Pacific Street

Photo: Map of Odegaard, Suzzallo, and Allen Libraries
Other Writing Resources

Helpful Tools for Research

- Health Sciences Database: [hsl.uw.edu/databases/](hsl.uw.edu/databases/)
- SW Research Guides: [guides.lib.uw.edu/hsl/socialwork](guides.lib.uw.edu/hsl/socialwork)
  - SW Subject Librarian: Lynly Beard (she/her) [lynly@uw.edu](lynly@uw.edu)
- UW Libraries Proxy Bookmarklet: [lib.washington.edu/help/connect/tools](lib.washington.edu/help/connect/tools)
- Student Technology Loan Program: [stlp.uw.edu](stlp.uw.edu)
Other Writing Resources

Useful Websites

● **UW Libraries online:** [lib.washington.edu](http://lib.washington.edu)
  ○ Can easily generate reference for reference page
● **Google Scholar:** [scholar.google.com](http://scholar.google.com)
  ○ Can easily generate reference for reference page
● **Citation management tools:**
  ○ EndNote, Zotero, Mendeley
Taking Care of Yourself

Prioritize your holistic wellbeing in grad school

- Counseling Center: washington.edu/counseling
- Hall Health Center: uwmedicine.org/locations/hall-health-center
- Intramural Activities Website: washington.edu/ima
- UW Food Pantry: washington.edu/anyhungryhusky/the-uw-food-pantry/
- UW Disability Resources: depts.washington.edu/uwdrs
- UW Canoe & Kayak Rental: washington.edu/ima/waterfront/boat-rentals/
- SSW Mental Health Counselor: Lev Cunningham (they/he)
Offering Context

- Social work writing
- Writing in grad school in the U.S.
- Critical reading and writing
What about the writing process brings you joy?
Social Work Writing

- Social Workers work across fields and settings. Each may require a different type(s) of writing
  - Medical - e.g., case notes
  - Mental and behavioral health - e.g., assessments
  - Policy and politics - e.g., policy briefs
  - Community organizing - e.g., advocacy letters
  - Nonprofits - e.g., grant writing
  - Academia - e.g., scholarly research
Writing in Grad School in the U.S.

Let’s name the house we are in: **American Standard Academic English (ASAE)** is the norm

- A particular, value-laden written voice
- Roots in whiteness and class privilege
- May be considered oppressive, unnatural, violent
- Values directness, “ownership” of thought
- May hinder authentic voice, indirectness, creative expression, and more
Writing in Grad School in the U.S.

Write to reflect

1. What do you value about the forms of communication you grew up using?
2. How does American Standard Academic English compare to the ways you grew up communicating?
3. What makes your voice YOUR voice?
What does being *critical* mean?

“Exercising or involving careful judgment or judicious evaluation” - Merriam-Webster Dictionary
What is Critical Reading?

Text is not always fact

- Contextualize the literature: Who is the author? What year was it published? Who funded the research? Whose voices or experiences are being included/excluded?

- How might the author’s positionality (credentials, intersecting identities, financial interests) inform their scholarship?

- Read for themes

- Question the ideas

- Place authors, theories, texts in conversation with each other
What is Critical Writing?

Write to explore, question, and analyze a topic

- Challenge dominant perspectives
- Tackles an issue/problem/question for which no answer exists
- Invites a variety of possible perspectives
- Academic knowledge is not all knowledge (but, you will be expected to engage with it, including through citations)
APA at a Glance

- Changes to the 7th edition
- Resources
Updates

- Acknowledgement of they/them pronouns and endorsement of singular they over gendered language
- Promotion of bias-free language
  - Person-first language (except where identity-first is preferred)
  - Avoid using adjectives as nouns to describe people
  - Use specific labels to eliminate ambiguity
  - Honor preferences for self-identification while understanding that preferences are not monolithic within groups and language is mutable
- Oral Traditions and traditional knowledge of Indigenous peoples are treated as a distinct source category
Resources

● Purdue Online Writing Lab: owl.purdue.edu
  ○ Check out the APA Sample Student Paper

● APA Style Website: apastyle.apa.org
  ○ Check out their blog for answers to puzzling questions!

● Grammar Girl: quickanddirtytips.com/grammar-girl

● Title Case Converter: titlecaseconverter.com

● SSW Writing Center Resources (including APA workshop):
  socialwork.uw.edu/students/services/workshops-presentations
After attending this workshop, how are you feeling now about graduate-level writing?
Q & A
References

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/apa_changes_7th_edition.html