

Larbi Ben M'hidi University- Oum El Bouaghi
Faculty of Letters and Languages
Department of English
Level: Second Year (LMD)
Module: Study Skills 3 (TTU 3)
Code: UEM 2.1
Credits: 4
Coefficient: 2
Teacher in charge: Aaid Salah Eddine
Academic Year: 2021-2022

Lecture 05: Building the Academic Self: Authorship and Independent learning

Lesson Description:

This lecture is marked as the fruit of the third semester. It inspires students to become independent learners and confident academic writers as it introduces them to tips that may help them achieve this aim.

Our Slogan is: don't panic. It is just reading, thinking, writing and documenting.

Lesson Objectives:

- By the end of this course, students will be:
 - 1- Motivated to write and use the insights of MLA style when writing presentation reviews.
 - 2- Confident to start applying the acquired tips introduced by Davis when writing and documenting sources.

Do you aspire to be a successful academic writer or compose good essays and research papers?

Becoming a successful academic writer requires students to become independent learners and critical thinkers. This may lead them to improve their academic skills. Independent learning is “the ability to take charge of one’s learning” (Holec 3). That means students should be mature enough to take responsibility as they learn language, culture, literature and linguistics without complaining or blaming external factors. They can determine or identify learning objectives, make a practical plan, and detect relevant methods supporting them as they work to achieve their goals.

From another perspective, critical thinking was defined by Scriven and Paul in 1987 as “the intellectually disciplined process of actively and skilfully conceptualizing, applying,

analysing, synthesizing, and evaluating information gathered from, or generated by, observation, experience, reflection, reasoning, or communication, as a guide to belief and action” (qtd. in Kinkead). These two skills are valuable in the sense that they help students become positive and active. This may lead them to have a shining future as job opportunities will be guaranteed. So, independent learning and even critical thinking involve self-management, time management, and task management skills to become more efficient and effective.

Academic writing requires students to communicate one’s ideas and learning products understandably. Instead of being formulaic and focusing on the product, a process-based approach is introduced to make students follow practical steps on a daily basis to build up their academic profiles. According to the online academic writing tutor Davis Suzanne, there are ten tips that students should follow to become successful in writing good essays, papers, and research projects.

1-Set measurable writing goals. Measurable goals are small units that, by finishing them, you will achieve your objective. Writing an introduction in an argumentative essay is a small measurable goal that can be done in one or two days.

2-Visualize writing an excellent paper: attempt to close your eyes and have a positive vision about the product that you tend to make. Visualization is the mental process of doing things before actually doing them.

3-Plan what should be written each day: You should use the insights you learn in the Written Expression module and practice them daily to enhance your writing skill and achieve deep learning.

4-Use a timer to sharpen concentration (You should refer to the lecture of time management skills in S1 in Study Skills).

5-Create a writing habit: Improve your **grammar**, **read** articles or **watch** videos to **extract** information, **brainstorm** about your topic of interest. Writing is a process: it starts with brainstorming, researching and pulling information, including the information in your first

draft, edit the written form and checking the format of documentation. Do these activities every day. Practice with guidance is what makes students future teachers and academic writers.

6-Eliminate all distractions (phone, social media, TV, etc. You should return to the lectures on self-management, time management, and task management skills that you studied last year in study skills and use them effectively).

7-Write something every day, even something that is not related to your homework, such as journal entries, dairy, blog posts, freewriting exercises, and summaries or responses to what you are reading or learning in class. Brainstorming your ideas on a daily basis is vital for good writing.

8-"Write hot and edit cold": This phrase suggests that you should compose a draft without stopping to make changes or corrections. A rough draft (or ugly first draft) is a muddy first draft that will require modification and editing. Take a break once you've finished the first draft. You should typically wait a day before revising and editing your academic writing. Consider revising and editing your paper as though it were someone else's. Everything that doesn't make sense should be cut, changed, or rewritten. Be calculating and cold, and don't be reluctant to make significant modifications to your work.

9- Receive feedback and recommendations on your academic writing. PASS (Peer Assisted Study Sessions) or Peer revision group (PRG) are efficient techniques that improve your quality of writing and thinking.

10-Read, read, and read academic writing. Read journal articles, books, and academic and professional blogs. When you read a piece of writing, look at the vocabulary, writing style, and content. ==>) This will introduce students to the literature review about a given topic + students can borrow key terms, techniques in style, and methodology when writing essays or papers.

Based on these tips, students can improve the quality of their writing and documenting sources, which will give them the chance to become successful academic writers and university teachers one day. More importantly, the last tip is very critical and decisive. There is no way students can write essays, reviews, or even any project without reading. From my experience, I

advise my students to read five sources before writing one. For instance, to write an excellent argumentative essay or a well-detailed presentation review, it is highly recommended to read at least five essays or academic articles and check five reviews. Data reception is decisive for a prodigious output.

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