English Language Support Service

'Take your Writing from Good to Great': Online writing resources for home students

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Background

Moodle

English Language
Support Service

Language and Skills Support Resources

Welcome to this learning support module, which consists of resources and links aimed to help you with English language and academic skills whilst you are studying in your academic programmes. Select the area you need advice or support for from the menu of links below. Each link will take you to a page of resources which you can use according to your own specific needs.

Skill/Language area	Resource description	Skill/Language area	Resource description
Writing and Research	Advice on key writing skills including types of academic writing, writing critically, citation and referencing.	Finding Academic Information	A research resource provided by the Library.
Language and Academic Style (being developed)	Strategies for developing academic vocabulary, academic grammar, and style.	EAP Toolkit	Around 100 Interactive online exercises to help you improve academic English and study skills.
Giving Presentations	Tips and advice on giving presentations, including video examples.	General and everyday English language	Useful everyday language aimed at non-native speakers of English, including resources for pronunciation and listening to a range of accents.
Listening and Speaking	Advice on particpating in seminars and lectures, including video resources.		

Overview

- Why develop resources for home students
- How developed
  - Different phases of development and feedback collection
- Using feedback from students
  - Library stand
  - Focus group

Resources for Home students

- Why?
  - Feedback from several academics: 'home students need support with writing'
  - Students paying more, want more
  - Widening participation agenda
- Already had generic workshops
  - Building on the support we provide

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What we had before…

Language and Skills Support Resources (Home Students)

Academic Language and Skills Support Resources

This learning support module consists of resources and links aimed at language and academic skills development. Select the area you need advice on, support for or practice in from the menu below. Each link will take you to a page of mostly external resource links.

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Writing and research

Written Language and Academic Writing Style

Writing for a purpose

Coming out of a large-scale, ES

1 TYPES OF ACADEMIC WRITING

TYPES OF ACADEMIC WRITING

ACADEMIC ESSAYS AND RESEARCH PAPERS

Genre and the research paper (what research is and isn't; two types of research paper - 1. argument and 2. analysis)

How to Write a Research Paper (Sport Science)

The Seven Steps of the Research Process (Cornell)

Writing a research paper *(Purdue)*

DISSERTATIONS

Planning your dissertation *(Reading University)*

Survive the dissertation deadlines *(National Union of Students)*

Dissertations: 12 Top Tips *(Portsmouth)*

Dissertations *(Oxford Brookes)*

Writing your dissertation *(Aberdeen)*

REPORTS

Report Writing*(Loughborough University library resources)*

Report Writing *(Surrey)*

Writing technically *(Southampton)* - Part A and Part B

Report Writing *(Flinders University)*

PLANNING

Planning essays and assignments *(Southampton)*

MIND-MAPPING, SPIDERGRAPHS, GRAPHIC ORGANISERS

Mind-maps (BBC Key Skills). An overview.

How to create a mind-map. Scroll down to links to a range of examples and templates.

Graphic Organizers. More examples of how graphics can be used to brainstorm and organise ideas.

USING SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

LEARN self-study modules (Loughborough resources)

PLATO (Plagiarism Teaching Online). Select 'Enter' at the bottom of the page to start.

Ethical use of information: plagiarism and citation

Harvard Referencing tool kit

Numeric Referencing tool kit

English Language Support Service reference style guide. ELSS' in-house guide to formatting references in-text and at the end of your writing .
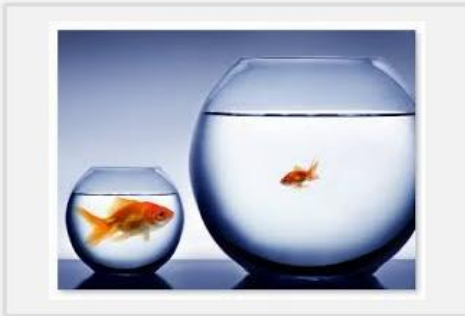
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Changes made ...

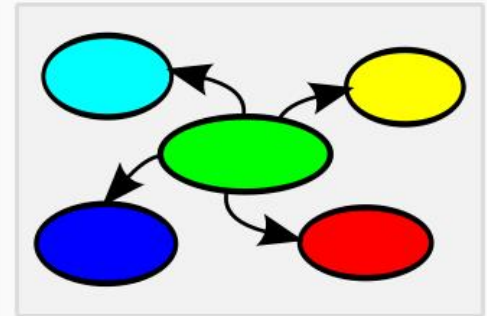**The Writing Centre**

The Writing Centre: Introduction

Paraphrasing and Summarising

Preparing to Write

Coherence in Writing

Academic Style

Punctuation and Proofreading

Your feedback for us

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Development…

- Using Supporting Evidence
- Paraphrasing and Summarising
- Grammar and Punctuation
- Coherence in Writing

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Punctuation and Proofreading

CAUTION
HEAVY PUNCTUATION CROSSING

Punctuation and Proofreading

Punctuation Guidelines 564.6KB PDF document
Sentences and Clauses 544.4KB PDF document
Common Errors in Academic Writing 250.1KB PDF document
Some Useful Grammar Rules 541.3KB PDF document
Editing and Proofreading 183.7KB PDF document

Using punctuation accurately helps you to have clear writing. Watch these

Punctuation: Introduction
Comma
Apostrophe
its vs. it's
Colon
Bullet points
Brackets

Review your knowledge of punctuation:

Common Punctuation Marks
Punctuation Quiz

Materials develop[ment]

- Information sheets with[...]

- Short capture videos

- Moodle quizzes

- Hot Potato quizzes

ReVIEW
APR 25, 2014 4:05:00 PM - NOLA DENNIS
Punctuation: Comma

Main uses

- Separates parts of a sentence:
  - Separates elements in a list
  - Separates additional information from main information

- Overuse in long sentences!

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ESSAY QUESTION

It is claimed by some that computers increase human potential while others believe them to be a hindrance.

Discuss some of the arguments for and against the advancement of computers.

precise   formal   caution   objective and impersonal

Operations such as obtaining a refund or changing a ticket tend to be fairly straight forward without the aid of a [...] s can become
In an office
very hour
in sending
est set of

objective and impersonal

use of
ert large
as
amily
looking at a
ement of other

formal

objective and impersonal

Quotation: A way of integrating sources into your writing. Repeat the exact words used by the writer.

Summary: A way of integrating sources into your writing. Give a brief account of the main points or arguments.

Paraphrase: A way of integrating sources into your writing. Put the source information into your own words in an accurate way. Approximately the same length as the original.

: The sources you have not read yourself, which are cited and referenced in a source you have read.

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goals in life, such as being healthy and socially integrated.

formal

However, it would be simplistic to say that computers have a

precise

Materials testing

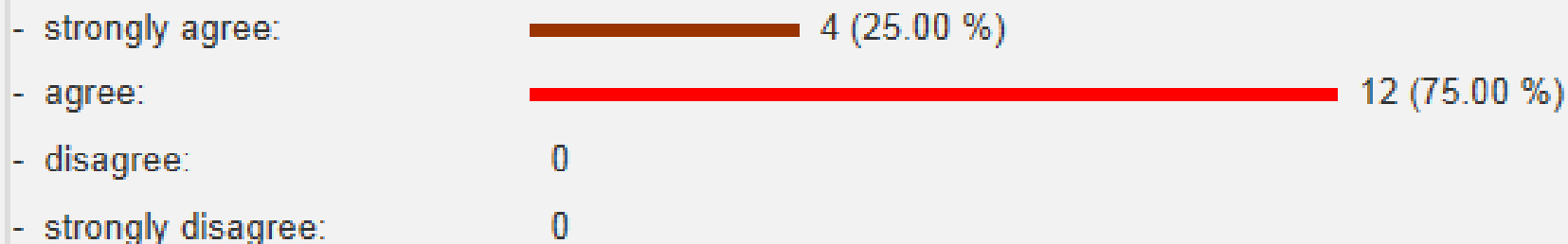- Invite to office – December 2014
- Library – February 2015
  – 16 students
- Asked students to test materials (on iPads)
- Complete feedback

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Feedback results…

- I learned something new…

() I learned something new from the online materials and activities.

- strongly agree: ————————— 4 (25.00 %)
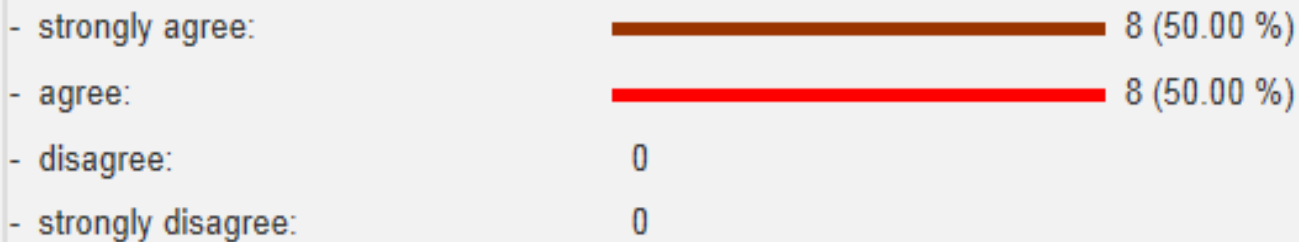- agree: ——————————————————— 12 (75.00 %)
- disagree: 0
- strongly disagree: 0

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Feedback results…

- Relevant to my studies…

() The materials and activities are relevant to my studies.
- strongly agree: 9 (56.25 %)
- agree: 6 (37.50 %)
- disagree: 1 (6.25 %)
- strongly disagree: 0
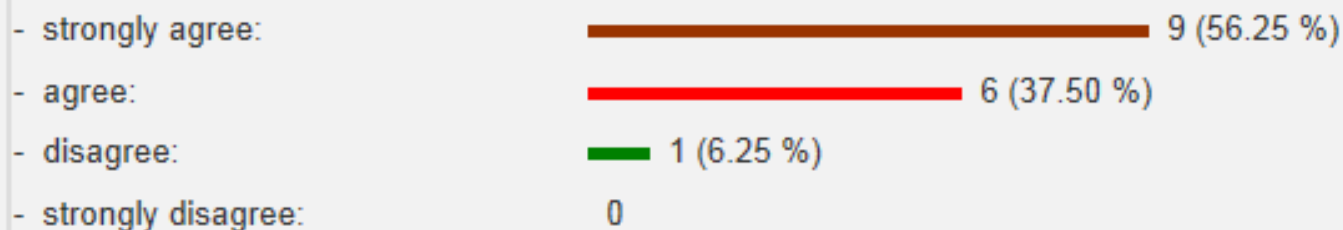
- User-friendly…

() The materials and activities are user-friendly.
- strongly agree: 8 (50.00 %)
- agree: 8 (50.00 %)
- disagree: 0
- strongly disagree: 0

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Feedback results…

- Attractive format…

() The materials and activities are presented in an attractive format.

- strongly agree: —— 3 (18.75 %)
- agree: —— 9 (56.25 %)
- disagree: —— 4 (25.00 %)
- strongly disagree: 0
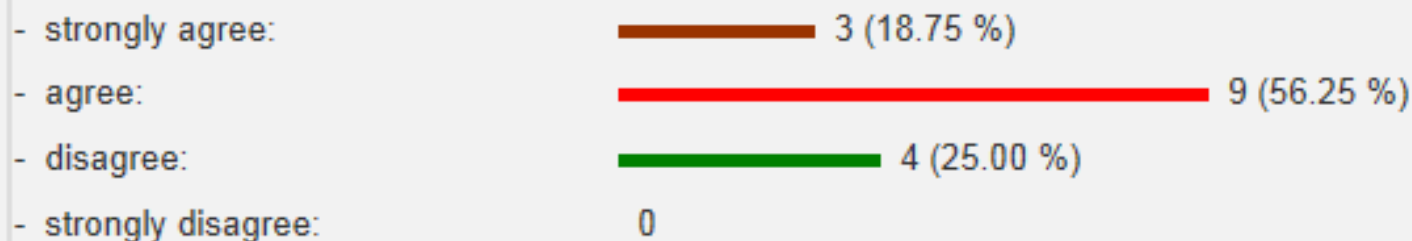
Feedback results…

- Preferred resources…

() **Which of the resources would you prefer to use? (choose all that apply)**

- Quiz:	————————————	8 (50.00 %)
- Short video:	——————	4 (25.00 %)
- Online Lecture:	———	3 (18.75 %)
- PDF Information sheet:	————————————	8 (50.00 %)

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Which activity or resource did you find most useful and why?

"PDF information sheets as they can be easily printed and referred to while writing. The results of a quiz are more likely to be short lived."

"The quiz because it was fun!"

"PDF – I need short and concise information to learn, not long PowerPoints"

"PDFs and quizzes combined, sort of like a comprehension."

"Quizzes interspersed within information sheets as you learn the rules for writing and then see if you understood what you just read."

What we learned & what we did

- PDF Information sheets ✓
  - Quick fix
- Link to selected external resources
  - In-depth Information
- Link to workshops
- Quizzes ✓

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What we learned & what we did

- University review of Student Services

- Student feedback:
  - Students dor
  - Like the idea
    better
  - "Good to Gre

The Writing Centre

The Writing Centre: Introduction

The Writing Centre

Online resources to help take your academic writing **FROM GOOD TO GREAT!**

For a 'Quick fix' look for the following symbol:

For more 'In-depth Information' look for the following symbol:

For help with academic writing, book onto 'Get the Know-how: Skills to Succeed' free workshops. Look for the following symbol:

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Focus Group

- 18th November 2015
- 7 students
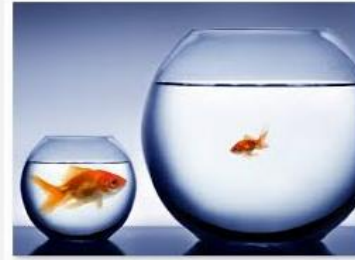 - Six 1st year UG
  - One 2nd year UG
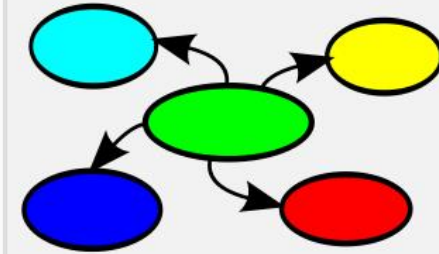- Pizza!

Relevant feedback...

- What format support?
  - LEARN: we want to be able to go back and read through for ourselves.

- Need help with?
  - Lab reports
  - Structuring writing
  - Referencing

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Current format…

Paraphrasing and Summarising

Preparing to Write

Essay Writing

Report Writing

Coherence in Writing

Academic Style

Literature Reviews & Dissertations

"I am so clever that sometimes I don't understand a single word of what I am saying." - Oscar Wilde

Using Supporting Evidence

You wouldn't like me when I'm angry...

Because I always back up my rage with facts and documented sources.

-The Credible Hulk

Punctuation and Proofreading

⚠ CAUTION

HEAVY PUNCTUATION CROSSING
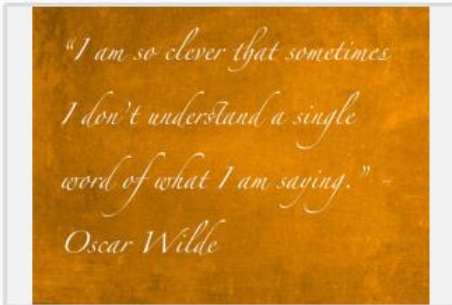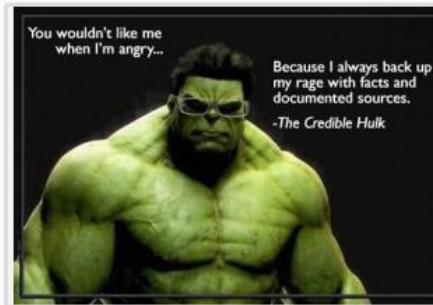
Your feedback for us

?

Have you used the Writing Centre resources?

- No – because no one else mentioned it!
- Students only use what lecturers tell them to

What do you think is the biggest barrier to asking for support?

"I'm a small fish in a big pond. If I'm on my own, I feel that I am the only one struggling and everyone else is getting on with it OK."

LUA014 The Writing Centre

LUA014 The Writing Centre

Planning your Writing

- What is Critical Reading? (University of Leicester)
- Critical and Analytical Thinking Skills (Palgrave)
- Writing for a Purpose
- What does the question mean? 118.2KB PDF document
- Creating a thesis statement (Purdue University)
- Abbreviations for note taking 75.2KB PDF document
- How to create a mind-map

[The Writing Centre](#)

Conclusion & future developments...

- In-house materials in development:
  - Report writing
  - Reflective writing
- Getting out there!
- More promotion – need academics to encourage students to use
- Self-enrol →automatic enrolment all 1st years

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Thank you!