

10 Tips for Graduate Student Writers

Clearly Express the Paper's Purpose in the Introduction

Utilizing examples within your writing helps the reader connect with your research in a more tangible way.

Avoid Excessive Wordiness

Excellent writing does not need complicated wording or excessively long sentences. Ask yourself, "Does this sentence complicate my point?"

Combine Discoveries with Discourse

Attempt to keep the introduction concise and structured. Inform the reader about the work's contents and organization. It is often easier to complete this section at the end of the writing process.

Follow Complex Information with Examples

Strive to eliminate excessive word use in your writing. The best writers are capable of writing clearly for a vast audience without losing readers in overly academic language.

Write Simply

Often the 'results' section of papers is devoid of discussion. Try presenting findings with explanations to make your point clearer to the reader. The 'discussion' section can then assess counterpoints, expound, and summarize.

Maintain Order and Structure

Don't be afraid to use subheadings! They are useful to organize your writing and function as signposts to deftly direct the reader.

Transition Actively

Each sentence should introduce no more than two new topics. This ensures you can organize and explain each topic fully without confounding the reader.

Adopt Revisions and Drafts

Continue the same organizational structure throughout the work. If you introduce three topics, discuss each topic in the order in which they were presented. This permits writing transparency.

Utilize Subheadings

Each paragraph should evolve and connect with those preceding them. Transition sentences guide the reader through the structure of the work while maintaining cohesion.

Limit Multiple Ideas in Sentences

Continually read and revise *as you write*.
"There is no such thing as good writing, only good rewriting."
– Robert Graves.

Note: Each educator has their own expectations and requirements for assignments. Always adhere to rubrics and guidelines when completing coursework.

Information sourced from:

Wagenmakers, E. J. (2009). Teaching graduate students how to write clearly. *APS Observer*, 22(4).
<https://www.psychologicalscience.org/observer/teaching-graduate-students-how-to-write-clearly>
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