Academic Development Seminar: Research Methods (Part 2)

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Reminder of discussion in Part 1:

- Marking system at Queen’s College
- Analysis, Reflection, Research papers
- Researcher / Audience roles
- Gathering sources
- Creating a template for taking notes / categorizing your notes
Topics of discussion in Part 2:

- Planning your draft
- Engaging your sources creatively
- Avoiding plagiarism
- Quoting / summarizing / paraphrasing
- Strategies for working through blocks
The writing begins....

Planning your draft....

→ sketch background
→ define key terms
→ determine major sections / chapters
→ develop a logical order for sections
→ break sections down into subsections
→ make sure each sub/section is clearly demarcated (where it begins and ends)

→ determine where to include source engagement
The writing continues....
Engaging your sources creatively....

Creative disagreement:
- D’s argument misses something / misses this point
- D’s argument got something wrong / needs correcting
- D’s argument assumes too much / makes too big a leap

Creative agreement:
- D’s argument can be expanded / its assumptions given support
- D’s argument can be applied to this new / different context
What is Plagiarism?

- quoting another’s words without acknowledgement
- summarizing another’s ideas without acknowledgement
- copying another’s structure without acknowledgement
When should I....?

- **Summarize** to give general context
- **Paraphrase** for more focused information
- **Quote** for very specific purposes:
  - evidence backing up your argument
  - strikingly original phrasing
  - compelling expression of your ideas
  - something to be debated / disagreed with
Common Referencing Styles

Chicago Style / Turabian Style
https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

MLA (Modern Language Association) Style
https://style.mla.org/

APA (American Psychological Association) Style
https://apastyle.apa.org/index
**Avoid inadvertent plagiarism!!!**
What is Plagiarism?

- quoting another’s words without acknowledgement
- summarizing another’s ideas without acknowledgement
- copying another’s structure without acknowledgement
- avoid excessive use of quotes

Plagiarism a serious academic offence!

See Queen’s College calendar (p. 24)

The writing... grinds to a halt....

Fear of criticism
Feelings of failure
Fear of writing as a process
Unclear in direction
Fear of success
Boredom with topic

Aaaagh!!!
Strategies for working through blocks:

- regular free-writing exercises (5 – 10 minutes) on:
  - what you have written so far (summarize)
  - how you feel about what you have written so far
  - how the original outline has evolved
  - whether your author / audience roles have changed
  - how you feel about writing about others’ work
  - what you will be writing about in the next section
  - rehearse orally the point you want to make
  - what might be giving rise to problems / blocks
Strategies for working through blocks:

- regular free-writing exercises (5 – 10 minutes)
- write with others in a group
- write incrementally (a paragraph / subsection at a time)
- write for a set period each day
- consciously appreciate how much you have already written
- visualize the completed essay / thesis / project
Up next in Part 3:

- How to use quotes / punctuating quotes
- Writing introductions and conclusions
- Revising your work
- Doing a “work-in-progress” presentation