

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>

**Bibliographic
Information**

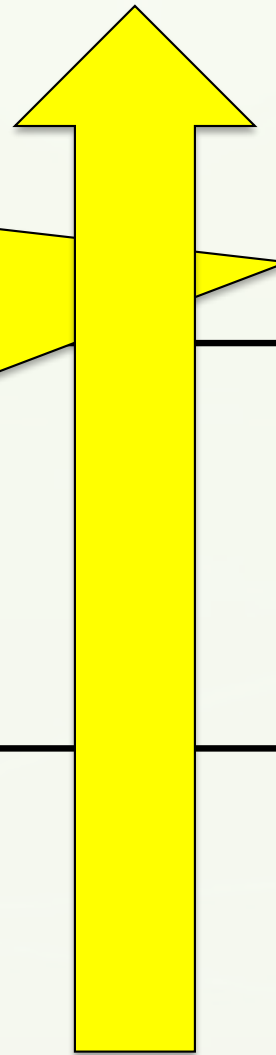
Keywords

**Key claims /
main ideas**

**My thoughts
/ responses**

**Key quotes /
paragraphs
(page #)**

**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)

<http://queenscollegenl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Calendar-2016-2017.pdf>



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

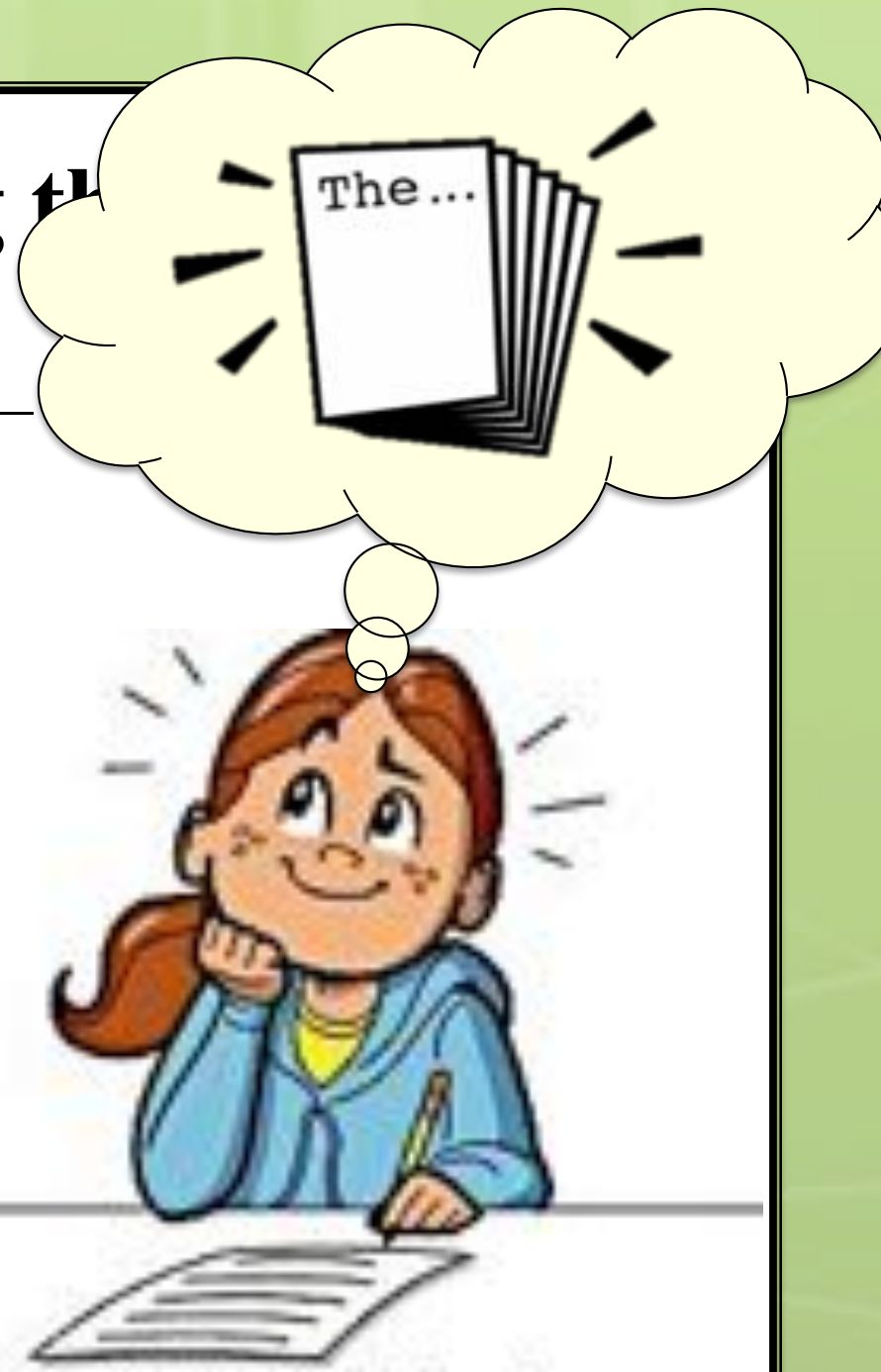


Strategies for working through blocks:

- ❖ 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 th

- ❖ regular free-writing exercises (5 –
- ❖ 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**

