Writing a Literature Review

Some Tips & Tricks

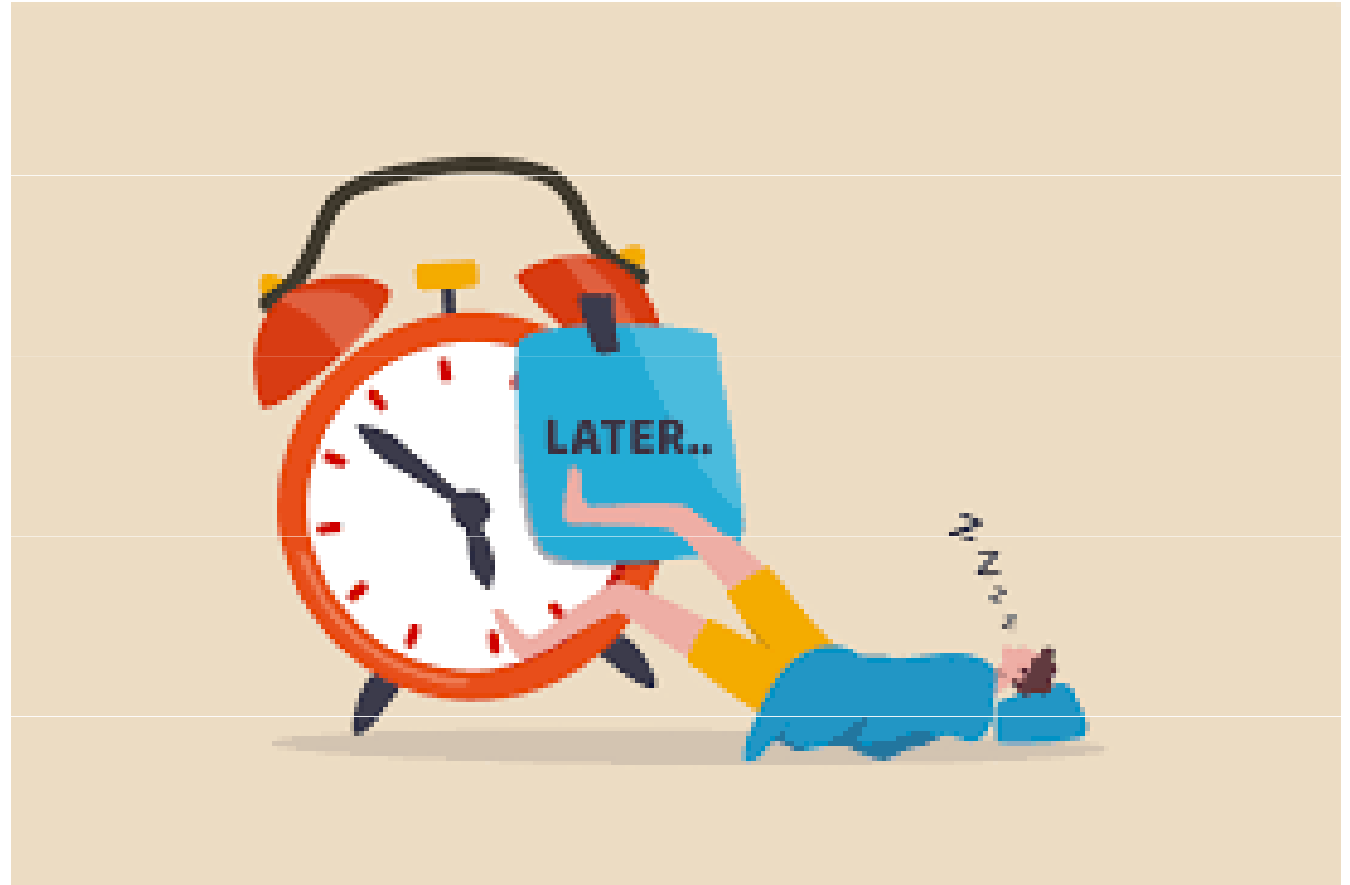Chris Rance. rance@phil.muni.cz

Martin Guzi.

Plan for Today

- The Most Important Advice

- General
  - What Writing IS (and Isn't)
  - Tools to Help

- Literature Reviews
  - Structuring the Literature Review

Start yesterday

Plan your writing process

- Break the process down into tasks
- List all tasks and allocate time
- Deadline for drafts (1st , 2nd , 3rd)
- Plan for the unforeseen
- Long term vs. short term plans
- Consider your productivity

Getting the Language Right

What is This?

- Nanni to Ea-nasir: a letter of complaint (circa 1750 BC).
- Writing is transactional.
- Keep your readers in mind.

Tell Ea-nasir: Nanni sends the following message: When you came, you said to me as follows : "I will give Gimil-Sin (when he comes) fine quality copper ingots." You left then but you did not do what you promised me. You put ingots which were not good before my messenger (Sit-Sin) and said: "If you want to take them, take them; if you do not want to take them, go away!" What do you take me for, that you treat somebody like me with such contempt? I have sent as messengers gentlemen like ourselves to collect the bag with my money (deposited with you) but you have treated me with contempt by sending them back to me empty-handed several times, and that through enemy territory. Is there anyone among the merchants who trade with Telmun who has treated me in this way? You alone treat my messenger with contempt! On account of that one (trifling) mina of silver which I owe(?) you, you feel free to speak in such a way, while I have given to the palace on your behalf 1,080 pounds of copper, and umi-abum has likewise given 1,080 pounds of copper, apart from what we both have had written on a sealed tablet to be kept in the temple of Shamash.

How have you treated me for that copper? You have withheld my money bag from me in enemy territory; it is now up to you to restore (my money) to me in full. Take cognizance that (from now on) I will not accept here any copper from you that is not of fine quality. I shall (from now on) select and take the ingots individually in my own yard,

What is a Paragraph?

A paragraph is a unit of sense within a piece of writing. It makes one clear point (X) and has an introductory sentence and a concluding sentence. A change in paragraph signals a change, or progression, in topic to the reader.

Oxford Brookes University

Unity

Everything in the paragraph is about X

Completeness

Everything about X is in the paragraph

Order

Topic sentence and evidence are placed in a logical order.

Cohesion

The paragraph flows both from sentence to sentence and from preceding to following paragraph

Be flexible

- When you plan at first, be flexible.

- With research come changing ideas.

- Plan in a way that supports rather than hinders them.

Establish a Background

- What are you writing for?
  (Claim the importance of the topic)
- What are you writing about?
  (Make generalisations)
- What do we know so far?
  (Review the literature)

- Why then …?

Engage the Audience

Make a Claim for Your Paper

- Counter-claim

- Indicate a gap

- Raise a question

- Expand existing research

Be Generous
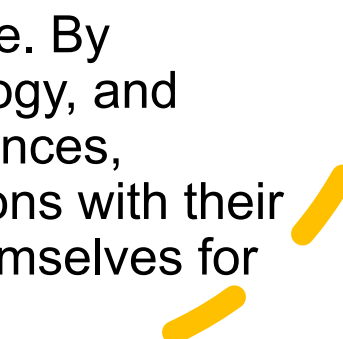
- "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of Giants"

- Position your paper as a response – an addition to the conversation.

- "This paper challenges…"

Is this thinking of the reader?

In today's dynamic and competitive marketplace, effective marketing communication holds the key to unlocking brand success. It allows businesses to rise above basic product or service offerings, forging meaningful connections with target audiences and shaping brand perception. However, with an ever-evolving media landscape and an influx of communication channels, crafting a strategic approach to marketing communication has become increasingly complex as such, understanding the intricacies of marketing communication strategy has become imperative for businesses seeking to thrive in competitive landscapes. Innovative marketing communication strategies are essential for businesses to thrive in today's competitive landscape. By embracing creativity, leveraging technology, and remaining sensitive to consumer preferences, businesses can forge stronger connections with their audience, drive growth, and position themselves for long-term success.

Length

- Don't write walls of text → tl;dr.
- Sentence length matters
https://www.musical-sentences.com/

Using ChatGPT

- ChatGPT is dumb – it needs your help

- AI can't really write papers for you – but it can help make them better.

- "I'm writing a paper on [topic] for a leading [discipline] academic journal. What I tried to say in the following section is [specific point]. Please rephrase it for clarity, coherence and conciseness, ensuring each paragraph flows into the next. Remove jargon. Use a professional tone."
  Dritjon Gruda

- AI writing tools rely on context – the more you give, the better the results.

- Be warned – it seems to be getting dumber! Sometimes it just makes things worse…

A closer look at that text

In today's dynamic and competitive marketplace, effective marketing communication holds the key to unlocking brand success. It allows businesses to rise above basic product or service offerings, forging meaningful connections with target audiences and shaping brand perception. However, with an ever-evolving media landscape and an influx of communication channels, crafting a strategic approach to marketing communication has become increasingly complex as such, understanding the intricacies of marketing communication strategy has become imperative for businesses seeking to thrive in competitive landscapes. Innovative marketing communication strategies are essential for businesses to thrive in today's competitive landscape. By embracing creativity, leveraging technology, and remaining sensitive to consumer preferences, businesses can forge stronger connections with their audience, drive growth, and position themselves for long-term success.

A closer look at that text

Unlock success

Forge connections

Shape perception

Influx of channels

Thrive in landscapes

Business driven growth

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Use the right lexis

- Google Ngram for "often, oftentimes"
- https://books.google.com/ngrams/
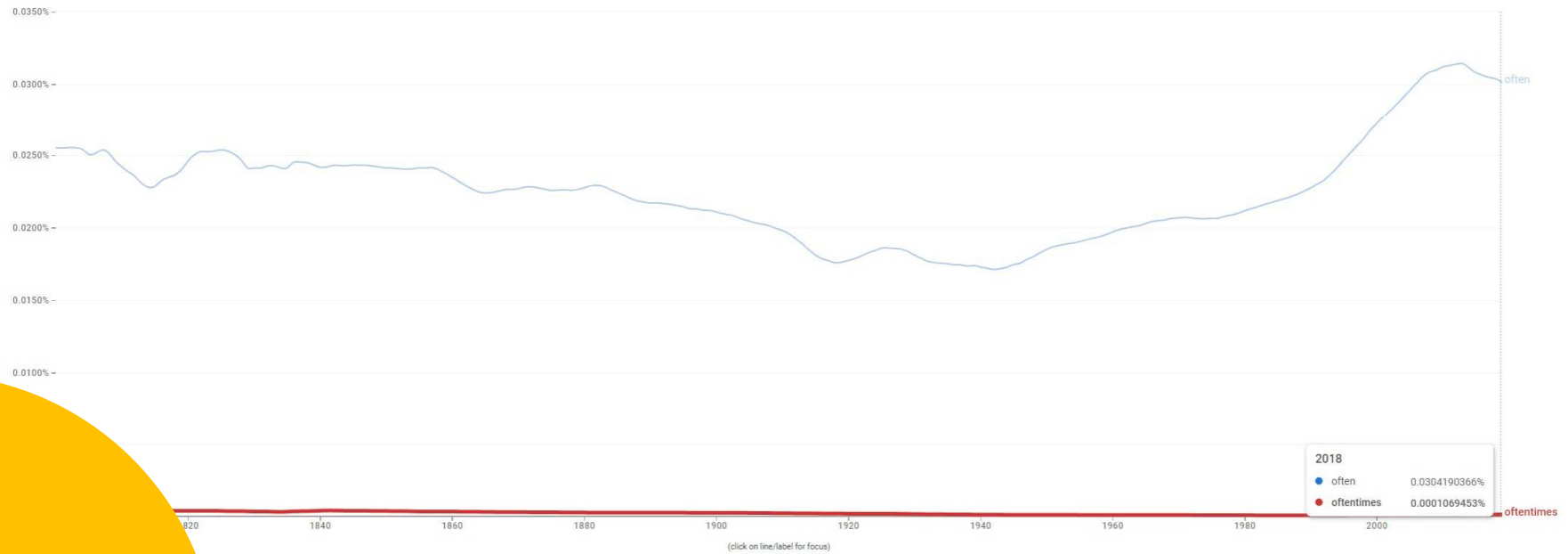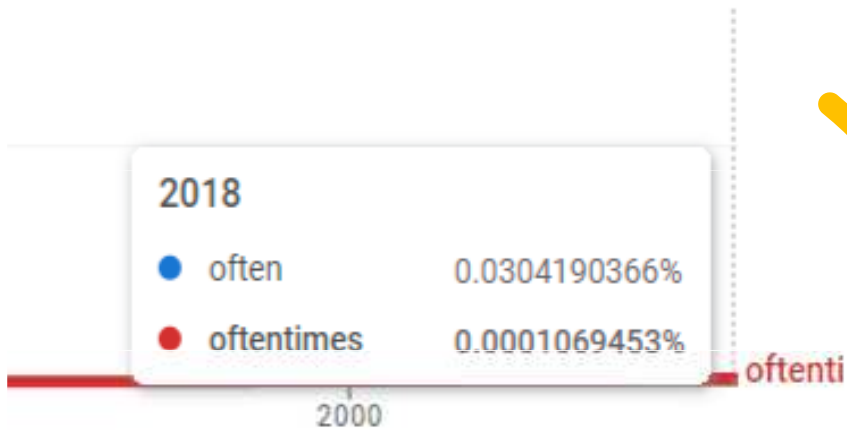
SKELL – corpus linguistics for non-linguists

Unlock success

Forge connections

Shape perception(s)

Influx of channels
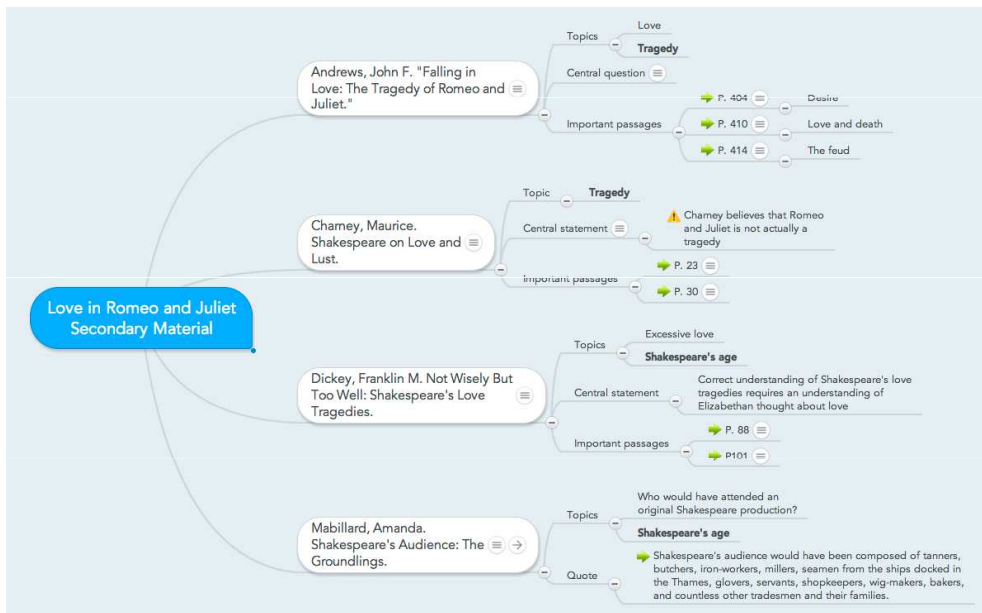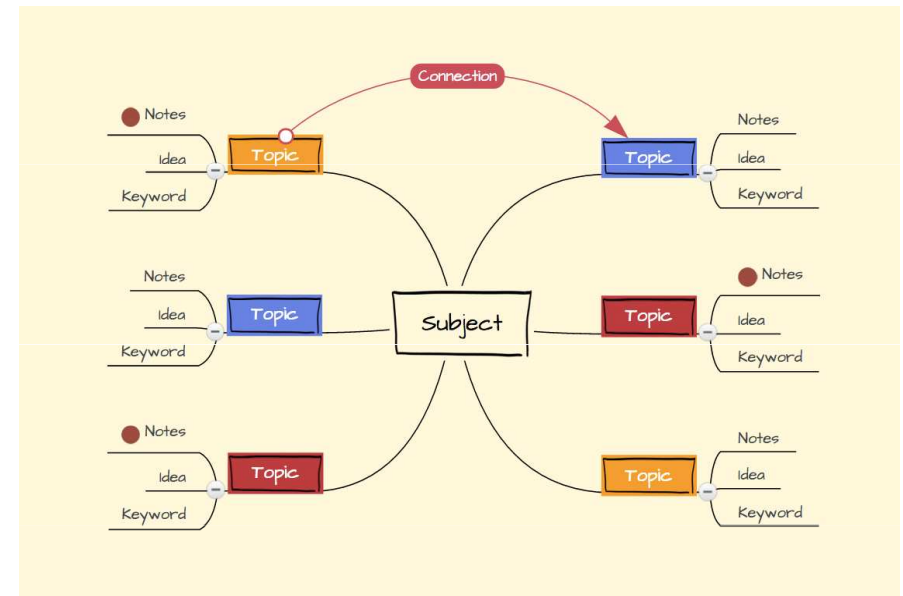
Thrive in landscapes

Business … with their audience

Outline Your Paper in a Mind Map

www.Mindmup.com

www.Coggle.it

www.Mindmeister.com

Literature Review

What a Literature Review Isn't

- a list

- a simple summary of other people's work

- a chaotic jumping from point to point

- an opportunity to 'name drop'

Structure

1. Find Your Literature
    - Background & Research Area (limitations etc)
2. Assess its Relevance
    - Finding the Gap / Standing on the Shoulders of Giants
3. Identify Themes
    - What are the Key Themes / Areas of Research Relevant to **Your** thesis?
4. Decide on Your Outline
5. Write the Literature Review

Get an overview - SciSpace

- www.typeset.io
- Input your question – see what's out there.
- Summarise and review.
- Use that to generate your own research question.
- Further/future research in conclusions/discussion is a good place to start

Lateral.io

AI in Academic Writing

Table View   Super Search   Document View

Add documents   Concepts   Share   Export   Help   C

📄 Documents 7	📝 Notes	+
📄 **A Review of AI-Powered Writing T…** 10 pages, Roe et al., 2023		
📄 **AI applications impact on improvi…** 20 pages, Aladini, 2023		
📄 **AI Technology and Academic Wri…** 15 pages, Storey, 2023		
📄 **Concerns About Co-Authoring AI …** 2 pages, Yildiz, 2023		
📄 **Norms for Academic Writing in th…** 11 pages, Friederich and Symons, 2023		
📄 **Revolutionizing Academic Englis…** 6 pages, Dong, 2023		
📄 **The Use of Controlled Artificial In…** 2 pages, Saygın and Kabakçı, 2023		

Lateral.io

AI in Academic Writing
Table View Super Search Document View

Add documents   Help

Q Plagiarism   ✕   34 results in 5 documents

Snippet	Concept	Notes
The first category of online writing tools is that of MTs. Translation between languages is vital for the sharing of knowledge across borders. The development of technology has brought with it the potential to translate from one language to another at the click of a button. One of the most well-known translation tools, Google Translate, serves 500 million users daily and allows for the translation of 133 languages, using a neural-machine translation model that translates entire sentences at a single time (Google, 2016). A similar translator, launched in 2017, DeepL, uses neural networks to translate between 29 languages, claiming a level of nuance and accuracy 10 times higher than any other machine translation (DeepL, 2022). This increasing accuracy and ease of access increase the potential for translation plagiarism. Translation plagiarism is a form of "hidden" plagiarism that has been noted in academia, as the detection of cases can often take years or even decades to surface (Dougherty, 2019). Such cases commonly occur when the author takes the credit for the translation of source material and passes it off as their own. As it is translated, text-matching software cannot detect such cases. Even manually, detecting translated plagiarism is complex, making it a "subtle" form of plagiarism (Dougherty, 2019). Consequently, tools to detect cross-language and translation plagiarism are being developed, such as that described by Potthast et al. (2011), who found near matches across six major European languages using cross-language plagiarism detection. Therefore, although there is the possibility for detection of translation plagiarism using advanced computer science methods, this is not yet widespread (Dougherty, 2019). ▤ A Review of AI-Powered Writing Tools and Their Implications for Academic Integrity in the Language Classroom.pdf, Page 4 of 10		
The main violation of academic integrity principles that can occur through the use of digital writing tools is textual plagiarism. Plagiarism in this case is defined as when an intellectual product that does not belong to the author is passed off or presented as their own (Helgesson & Eriksson, 2015) or misrepresenting authorship by submitting information that belongs to another without an accurate reference (Perkins et al., 2018). In HE, plagiarism detection software has been studied for decades (Decoo & Colpaert, 2010). To date, the most popular software for detecting textual plagiarism is Turnitin, which is used by 15,000 HEIs in 140 countries (Mphahlele & McKenna, 2019). However, Mphahlele and McKenna (2019) argued that Turnitin is not an effective plagiarism detection tool but is more suitable as an instructional tool. Turnitin can be used to show students how sources are used to construct text. The idea of Turnitin as solely a plagiarism detection tool is a "myth." The new categories of digital writing tools discussed here (machine translators [MTs], digital writing assistants [DWAs], and automated paraphrasing tools [APTs]) can also effectively bypass such systems. ▤ A Review of AI-Powered Writing Tools and Their Implications for Academic Integrity in the Language Classroom.pdf, Page 3 of 10		
Illicit APT use is generally conducted by taking a source text and passing it through the tool on an online platform. The tool, with varying levels of sophistication, produces a paraphrased version through synonym substitution. This can at times result in incomprehensible "word-salad" (Rogerson &		

Other Tools

- www.evidencehunt.com
- Registration necessary
- Will provide an answer to a question and a list of papers from citation
- www.researchkick.com
- Paid at present (institutional subscription)
- Helps find research gaps and questions

Take a break!

Kill your darlings,
kill your darlings,
even when it breaks
your egocentric
little scribbler's
heart,
kill your darlings.

Stephen King

- If you've just solved all the world's problems or even some of them

  ...you probably haven't.

- Don't become emotionally invested in your topic or argument.

- Check your question is acceptable to the faculty/course.

Questions to ask yourself:

- How does it relate to my question?
- Is it still relevant?
- How does it relate to my other sources?
- Which outline 'template' would be the best choice?

Outline Choices

1. Chronological
   - Easiest for you; easiest to screw (up).
   - Make sure you analyse debates and patterns – why did such developments take place?

2. Methodological
   - Compare results using differing research methodologies (qualitative vs quantitative), empirical vs theoretical outlooks, differing source types.

3. Thematic
   - Compare different key areas within your question and organise your paper this way.
   - Added advantage on making sure the review is about your topic, not previous literature.

4. Theoretical
   - Identify key concepts and argue how and why different theories provide differing insight. A Keynesian outlook will differ significantly from a Monetarist one.

Write That Review

Introduction

- Purpose of the review? Give the context (lots of research on X but not Y, for example).
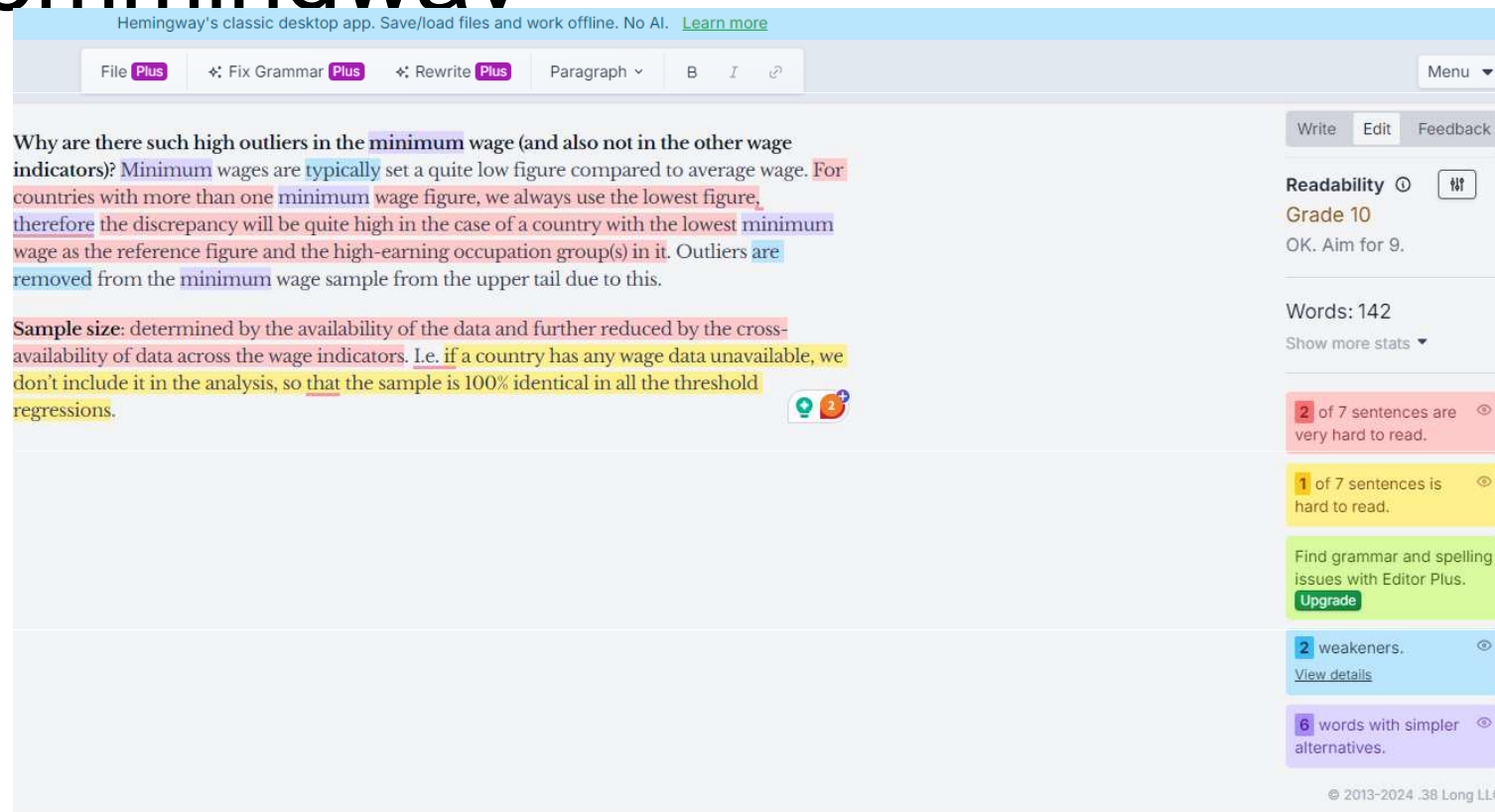
Body

- Synthesise: combine your sources into a cogent basis for your argument.

- Analyse, interpret, evaluate. Don't just paraphrase; relate the sources to your question and mention their strengths/weaknesses.

Conclusion

- Emphasise significance of sources and show how you draw on them to construct a framework to answer your question.

Check your style of writing with Hemingway

- https://hemingwayapp.com/

Finally, Check Your Work

- Four Pillars of the Paragraph.
  (Unity / Completeness / Order / Cohesion)

- Check for Redundancy / Collocation / Appropriacy.

- Get someone else to read your work over.

- (Check citations are correct!)

(Re)sources

- SciSpace   typeset.io
- Lateral   lateral.io
- Musical sentences   musical-sentences.com
- Google ngram viewer
       books.google.com/ngrams
- Skell   skell.sketchengine.eu
- ChatGPT   chat.openai.com
- Evidence Hunt
       evidencehunt.com
- Research Kick   researchkick.com
- Hemmingway App   hemingwayapp.com

Suggested book

- **Doing economics : what you should have learned in grad school-but didn't (2022), Bellemare, Marc**
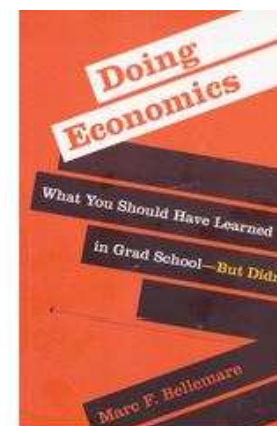
- E-book is available as E-Loan
- https://katalog.muni.cz/Record/MUB01006507361

- Chapter on Writing Papers is available in pdf
- https://is.muni.cz/auth/do/econ/sm/akap/akademicky_text_a_proces_jeho_vzniku/Writting_papers_Bellemare_MIT_2022.pdf

References

- Gritjon, Gruda. "Three Ways ChatGPT Helps Me in My Academic Writing." Nature.com. https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-01042-3

- Oxford Brookes University. "Paragraphs." https://www.brookes.ac.uk/students/academic-development/online-resources/paragraphs

- Graff, Gerald, Cathy Birkenstein, and Russel K. Durst. *"They Say / I Say": The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing.* New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2021.

Thank you for listening!

- Mindmup.com
- Coggle.it
- Mindmeister.com
- Calmlywriter.com
- Ilys.com/welcome
- Ommwrite.com
- Hemingwayapp.com
- Quill.org/tools/grammar