

SOC 776/978

WRITING SOCIOLOGY

B. Nadya Jaworsky

Room 3.59

Consultation Hours:

Tuesdays 14.00-15.00

or by appointment

REQUIREMENTS FOR WEEKS 12-13

- **Meeting with me** BEFORE **MAY 12 (today or tomorrow)**:
 - Elevator story (90-seconds)
 - “Stuck on an elevator” story (5-10 minutes)
 - Receive feedback on the 2-3 page summary
- **First Draft** in which your *potential argument* is clear: claim, reasons, evidence, due **SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2016 at 23.59.**
- **FINAL ESSAY IS DUE JUNE 12, 2016 at 23:59.**

My elevator story (90 seconds or less)

- I am working on the problem of (state your question).
- I think I can show that (state your hypothesis) because (state your reasons).
- My best evidence is (summarize your evidence).

Peer Review Partners for Final Essay Draft

- Ivana and Mirja
- Ntite and Viktoriia
- Horace and Vahagn
- Maheswata and Inna
- **THERE IS A NEW FORM FOR THE PEER REVIEW LINKED TO THE INTERACTIVE SYLLABUS!**
- **This peer review is worth 5 points**

FINAL ESSAY DRAFT

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

- About 65% or more of the total word count, so about 2,500 words, or 7-8 pages double spaced.
- 2.5 cm. margins, 12-pt or larger font, left justified
- “Fill in” what you can’t write
- **PLEASE REMEMBER TO NUMBER THE PAGES and INCLUDE YOUR NAME!** Ideally, you would do this in the header or footer.
- **This draft is worth 10 points.**

Structure of a Research Essay

- Introduction
- Review of Literatures
- Method/Methodology
- Argument/Findings/Data
- Discussion (often intertwined with Findings)
- Conclusion

Four-part scheme for Introduction

- Current Situation (what your readers now think or do)
- You are disrupting something and challenging it.
 - I used to think..., but....
 - Most people think..., but...
 - What events seem to show..., but...
 - .Researchers have shown..., but...
- Research questions (what your readers need to know but don't)
- Significance of the Questions (SO WHAT?)
- Answer (what your readers should know) **DON'T BE AFRAID TO GIVE AWAY YOUR ANSWER.** It's not a mystery novel!

Beginnings of organization

- **Identify Key terms that unite your paper:** for every major concept, identify a key term. Look in your introduction and conclusion for concepts and then choose a key term to identify it.
- **Find the key terms Distinctive to Each Section**
 - use subheads wisely!

Order sections by ordering reasons

- **Straightforward and standard:**
 - **Chronological.** Earlier to later or vice versa.
 - **Part by Part.** Ordering by relationship.
- **What readers like:**
 - Short to long, simple to complex
 - More familiar to less familiar
 - Most acceptable to most contestable
 - More important to less important (or vice versa)
 - Step-by-step understanding. Cover events, principles, definitions first.

Filling in the blanks

- **Sketch in a brief introduction to each section and subsection**
- **Sketch in evidence and acknowledgements**

Some Drafting Tips

- **Draft in a way that feels comfortable**
- **Picture your readers asking friendly questions**
- **Be open to surprises and changes**
- **Develop productive working habits**
- **Work through writer's block** – small, achievable goals; break down the process; do quick and dirty writing

Avoid Procrastinator's Tricks

- **Don't substitute more reading for writing.**
- **Don't keep revising the same pages over and over**
- **Don't focus on how much more you have to do.**
- **Don't allow yourself to do anything else during your writing time.**

Revising the Draft: Check Intro, Conclusion, Claim

Your readers should see:

- Where your introduction ends
- Where your conclusion begins
- What sentences in both state your main claim

Revising the Draft:

Make sure body is coherent

Readers should see:

- The key terms running through your paper (*circle* key terms; *underline* related words)
- Where each section ends and the next begins
- How each section relates to the one before it
- What role each section plays in the whole
- What sentence in each section and subsection states its points
- What distinctive key terms run through each section

Revising the Draft:

Check your paragraphs

- Each paragraph relevant to the point of the section
- Good topic sentences at beginning or end
- Avoid strings of short paragraphs
- See if the topics sentences make sense out of context; make an outline of them

Revising the Draft:

The final Intro & Conclusion

Introduction three goals:

- Put your research in context
- Make your readers think they should read your paper
- Give them a framework for understanding it

Conclusion should:

- Leave readers with a clear idea of your claim
- Reinforce its importance

Revising the Draft: The final Introduction

- Here's what we think we know (stability)
- Here's what we don't know (disruption and danger; dragon is the research question)
- Here's why we need an answer (the dragon's fire is a problem that must be solved)
- Here's the answer (resolution; you are the knight in shining armor)

Revising the Draft: The first sentences

- A striking quotation
- A striking fact
- A relevant anecdote
- Combine all three

Revising the Draft: The Conclusion

- Restate your claim
- Point out a new significance, a practical application, or new research
-
- Write your title last!

Preparing an Oral Report

- Use notes not a script
- Prepare and rehearse introduction and conclusion
- Organize your notes around your main reasons
- Present only your best evidence for each reason

Revising Sentences

- Focus on the first 7 or 8 words of a sentence
 - Make subjects short and concrete
 - Avoid interrupting subjects with more than a word
 - Put key actions in verbs, not in nouns
 - Put familiar information at the beginning of a sentence, new at the end



Revising Sentences

- Avoid long introductory Phrases
- Choose active or passive verbs to reflect the previous principles
- Use first-person pronouns appropriately
- Diagnose what you read
- Choose the right word
- Polish it off (read backwards)