PMCb1002 - Academic Writing Autumn 2023, Class 6 of 6 Editing your work, giving and receiving feedback

0. Title, Abstract, and Keywords

- While this belongs at the beginning of a paper, it is done at the end
 - The title should be catchy and informative
 - The abstract tells readers everything about your paper
 - About 5 keywords that represent your paper

- Introduction that contains:
 A descriptive preview
- A brief exploration of the pre-existing literature/context in which you are embedding your research
- A summary of how you will answer your research question and what your findings will tell us about the world in which you are writing

2. Theoretical background:

- Your papers always need to follow a theoretical framework that connects your research to existing knowledge
 - It gives you a basis for your hypotheses and choice of research methods
- It guides your analyses by suggesting concepts and relationships to explore

3. Contextual background:

- Describe and give context to the situation that you are analyzing
 - The short history of the issue you are tackling
- The history can be much longer than the period you are analyzing – focus on what you are writing about

4. Methodology:

- Quantitative or qualitative
- Explain the approach you chose
- Describe how you collected the data you used
- Explain the methods you used to analyze the data you collected
- Evaluate and justify the methodological choices you made
- This allows readers to check whether your approach is accurate and dependable

5. Analysis:

- Once you have conducted your research, you will then have to analyze it to examine its implications and support a defensible claim
 - Provide the main points, the evidence used to support each, and the credibility of your evidence
 - Explain potential biases
 - Describe the implications of the information
 - It can be divided into various subsections/categories

6. Findings:

- It can be its own section, or it can be in the analysis or in the conclusion
- Findings may be reported in written text, tables, graphs, and other illustrations
- Include a contextual analysis of the data by tying it back to the research question(s)

7. Discussion:

- Not always necessary on its own. Can be part of the conclusion

- This section connects your results to previous research studies, makes explicit connections back to your research question(s) and includes an explanation about how the results might be generalized

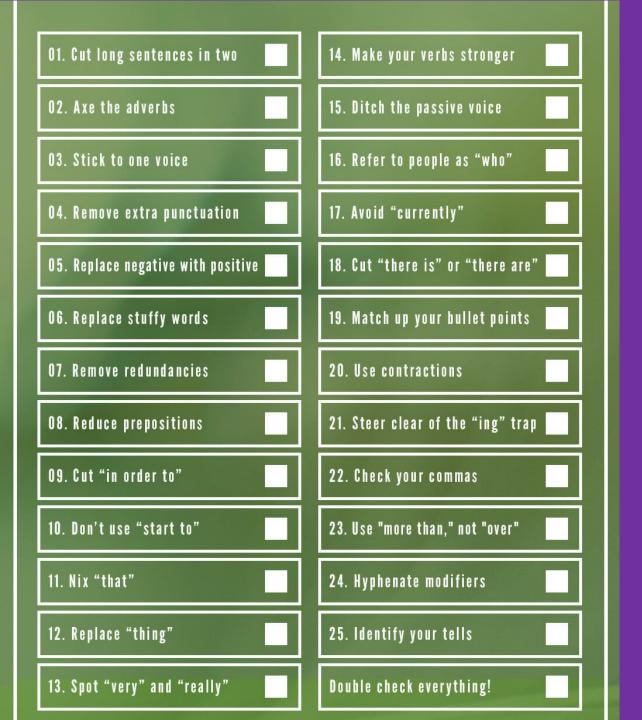
 Can also include an analysis of any unexpected findings, with a description of the unexpected finding, a brief interpretation as to why you believe it appeared and, if necessary, its possible significance in relation to the overall study

8. Conclusion:

- Clearly states the answer to your main research question with a short summary of the research process
- Counter-arguments (if available): what are the main objections to your research, and can you defend your thesis from them?
 - Make recommendations for future work on your thesis or dissertation topic
- Show what new knowledge you have contributed to your field

How to edit your work

- Reread the requirements and make sure you have everything requested
 - Print it out
 - Read it out loud
 - Give it time before you go back to it
- Make yourself a checklist of necessary items
 - Use software like Grammarly
- Fact check and ensure you have proper citations



- Here are a few ways to strengthen your writing

 I often read from the end to the beginning so the paragraphs are standalone items

Giving Feedback

- Be kind and diplomatic
- Read through the whole text first
- Be as specific as possible with the feedback and offer advice
 - Comments should be actionable

- Quality > quantity

- Proofreading is different from editing
 - Share your tips and ideas

Receiving Feedback

- You can ask for feedback at any stage of your writing or research and specify on what you want feedback
 - The person providing feedback means well
 - The amount of feedback will vary
 - You do not have to follow everything the reviewer has suggested
- If you do not understand some comments, ask!

Receiving Feedback

- Use the feedback for other papers to develop better writing and research techniques
- Save a copy of your original work before editing
- Feedback, especially before you submit your final work, are much more important than the grade
- For this class, once your final paper is submitted, you cannot resubmit ©
 - Masaryk University Writing Lab