

CHDV 242
Writing & APA Style

Discussion/Freewrite:

What is the most difficult part of writing for you? What do you hope to learn more about as a writer?

I. Reading and Evaluating sources

- Effective reading is related to effective writing

A. Evaluating sources

1. Scholarly sources are:
 - peer reviewed
 - focus on furthering knowledge rather than making a profit
 - have strict research standards
 - rarely have an overt political agenda
2. Types of sources
 - Peer-review journals
 - Edited books
 - "Expert" books for professional audience
 - Books for layperson – wider audience
 - Magazines
 - internet

B. Some strategies for effective reading

1. prereading
2. Understand your purpose in reading
3. annotate as you read – be an active reader
4. expect to read more than once
5. discuss what you are reading

II. Academic writing (Social Sciences)

A. Style is not just about references...

- Clarity is important! Present ideas in an orderly, succinct manner.
- Avoid jargon, wordiness, redundancy
- Avoid sexist or pejorative language
- Vary sentence length
- Be precise: avoid informal language and slang
- Avoid editorial "we", e.g., "researchers tend to classify data in this way..." is better than "we tend to classify data in this way..."
- Ensure that verb tense is consistent and that subject agrees with verb

B. APA Style (used except where in conflict with University format requirements)

- Basic formatting
- Citing references in text
- Reference page
- Some differences for theses

III. Plagiarism and how to avoid it

Plagiarism = Form of cheating and violation of professional ethics, whether intentional or not...