

Questions from Class 5

Where did the term “em dash” come from? What is the “em” part?

It is named because the symbol (—) has the same width as the letter 'm', approximately twice the width of an “en dash.”

An en dash’s width is equal to the width of the letter *n*, or approximately half the width of an “em dash.”

Lots of “e” words like ecphoneme or eroteme denote punctuation, so this is where I think the “e” comes from.

What kinds of info (like my name or class) on the header?

Just provide your name and the assignment. We will give the Unit project a title, but for now all you need to do is give me your name and the assignment at the top. For example:

Grant Glass
Feeder 1

How do we cite Wolff’s article in-text? In the works cited?

Since you cannot get page numbers from this online article, you would just use the author’s name. “....” (Wolff).

If you have questions about in-text MLA citation, the best website to refer to is Purdue OWL:
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_in_text_citations_the_basics.html

For Works Cited:

Wolff, William I. "Baby, We Were Born to Tweet Springsteen Fans, the Writing Practices of In Situ Tweeting, and the Research Possibilities for Twitter." *Kairos*, vol. 19, no. 3, 2015.
<http://kairos.technorhretoric.net/19.3/topoi/wolff/index.html> Accessed 18 Jan. 2018.

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Can we use first person in review articles (unlike academic ones)?

You can use first person in your writing, just make sure you do not overuse it. In this assignment, try to use it only once per paragraph at most.

How to conclude pieces without being redundant?

The easiest way to conclude is to think about “so what.” You have stated your points, but now you can say why it is important to listen to your analysis of this article. Also, just stating your points in different ways (using different words) can make your summary feel fresh.

How do you write good transitions without sounding redundant?

Transitions are all about concision, you want to dilute what you are saying in the paragraph into brief, 2-3-word statements. It is usually easiest to write these after you have the two paragraphs you are linking completed and want to chain them together. Don't say it the exact same way, find a way to say your same idea slightly different using different words.

How to write a thesis that isn't overly complicated and addresses everything?

Know that you are never going to address everything in the article, so try to scope what you can write about in the space you have. Often, I go back and rewrite the thesis to make it more specific after I have written the whole article. The thesis should be the last thing you polish before turning in the assignment.

How long should paragraphs be?

It depends! You only want to talk about one key idea per paragraph. They can range from 4 sentences to 8 sentences, depending on your ideas and style. You want a new paragraph when you are talking about a new idea or concept.

How often should you break up paragraphs?

I try to keep two paragraphs a page (double spaced), but again, it depends on your style. You want one main idea per paragraph. You can support that idea with many different quotes and summaries but keep a paragraph to a single idea.

How do you write a good introduction and conclusions?

The best introductions are clear and usually get rewritten heavily after you have completed the whole writing assignment. Relating why your article or thoughts are important is key to a good introduction. Trying to talk about why your contribution to the academic conversation is helping push it forward or looking forward to future conversations is the best way to conclude.

What are good informal/formal conventions?

It depends on the genre, audience, and publication platform. The easiest way to tell is to read a few pieces in that genre or publication to get a sense for how informal or formal it is.

How do I reach the 75/25 ratio?

Practice. Keep on writing and trying to get more evidence into your sentences will help you. We each have our own style and only continuing to write will help us figure out what our voice sounds like.

How do I integrate quotes better?

If you are struggling with quote integration, I would highly suggest picking up a copy of "They Say, I Say." The templates they provide will help you find different ways to introduce and interact with quotes. The best way to integrate quotes is to continually try to place them in your sentences more often. Practice makes Perfect!