Writing at the Graduate Level

Academic Learning Centre

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University of Manitoba

Free and online

Academic Learning Centre

SERVICES

Workshops

Webpage Resources

Tutoring and Group Study sessions

ALL Good Writing

- Provides clear and accurate **content**
- Integrates and **cites sources** correctly
- Provides **clear organization** with a **coherent flow**
- Fits the **context** of the written work and adheres to **formatting** requirements
- Is **concise** and **grammatically correct**

Good Undergraduate Writing	Good Graduate Writing
Is mechanically correct	Is mechanically skillful
Is concise	Is concise though also nuanced
Is clear though not necessarily engaging	Is engaging, stylish, and interesting; the writer's own voice is evident
May or may not demonstrate new ideas	Explores a topic or research question in an original way
Contains citations when required	Demonstrates extensive research and is able to expertly integrate these sources
Uses transition words	Has a strong organizational frame
Follows a reasonable, logical organizational structure	The paper moves from point to point in the way the writer wants the audience's thoughts to move; structure grows out of content
Is written for a general audience or for an instructor	Is written for a professional audience
Will, with revision, be presentable at an undergraduate conference or in a general-interest publication	Will, with revision, be publishable in a professional journal or presentable at a good conference

Depression affects over 20% of adolescents. It is a disorder that disturbs their mood, causes a loss of interest or pleasure in activities they should enjoy, and makes them irritable. It has been concluded that several things are thought to be correlated with depression in adolescents. Some examples include, a failure to individuate, insecure attachments, and negative parental representations (Milne & Lancaster, 2017; Olsson et al., 2019). In the present paper, the role attachment plays in adolescent depression is investigated. It is hypothesized that insecurely attached adolescents, (ambivalent or avoidant), will display higher levels of depression related symptoms than securely attached adolescents. The following five literature reviews attempt to demonstrate and support the hypothesis.

Sentence 1

Depression affects over 20% of adolescents.

Sentence 2

It is a disorder that disturbs their mood, causes a loss of interest or pleasure in activities they should enjoy, and makes them irritable.

Sentence 3 and 4

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Some examples include, a failure to individuate, insecure attachments, and negative parental representations (Milne & Lancaster, 2017; Olsson et al., 2019).

Sentence 5

In the present paper, the role attachment plays in adolescent depression is investigated.

Sentence 6

It is hypothesized that insecurely attached adolescents, (ambivalent or avoidant), will display higher levels of depression related symptoms than securely attached adolescents.

Sentence 7

The following five literature reviews attempt to demonstrate and support the hypothesis.

Despite recent reports that the crime rate has decreased, even among juveniles (Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2015), the general public has the impression that violence is rampant. Until very recently, the study of fear of criminal victimization, and the subsequent discussion of causes of this fear, had been limited to adults (see Hale, 2011). However, there has been an effort to expand fear of crime research to adolescent populations (May, 2017; May & Dunaway, 2016a, 2016b). This initial work suggests that though adolescent and adult fear of crime share many of the same predictors, there are still some significant differences as to which factors contribute to fear of crime. This is particularly true in the areas of race and class, which appear to predict fear of criminal victimization in a much more consistent way among adults than among adolescents (May, 2017).

Using a sample of 318 adolescent males incarcerated by the Department of Corrections from a Midwestern state, the present study borrows further from the fields of delinquency theory and developmental psychology to assess the relationship between adolescent fear of crime and two known insulators from delinquency: parental attachment and parental supervision.

Sentence 1

Despite recent reports that the crime rate has decreased, even among juveniles (Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2015), the general public has the impression that violence is rampant.

Sentence 2 and 3

Until very recently, the study of fear of criminal victimization, and the subsequent discussion of causes of this fear, had been limited to adults (see Hale, 2011).

However, there has been an effort to expand fear of crime research to adolescent populations (May, 2017; May & Dunaway, 2016a, 2016b).

Sentence 4 and 5

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This is particularly true in the areas of race and class, which appear to predict fear of criminal victimization in a much more consistent way among adults than among adolescents (May, 2017).

Sentence 6: Part 1

Using a **sample** of 318 adolescent males incarcerated by the Department of Corrections from a Midwestern state, the present study borrows further from the **fields of delinquency theory and developmental psychology** …

Sentence 6: Part 2

… to assess the relationship between **adolescent fear of crime** and two known insulators from delinquency: parental attachment and parental supervision.

Content

- Complexity of ideas
- Critical and original analysis

Research (Depth & Breadth)

- Identify scholars and schools of thought
- Summarize past and current research
- Engage critically with existing scholarship
- Use sources judiciously
- Integrate sources smoothly

Clear Organization

- State purpose and describe plan
- By connecting ideas effectively (clear flow)
- Use headings effectively
- Maintain an appropriate focus
- Create and use an outline

Clear Organization

1. **Introduction**
    a. The specific topic and background (literature)
    b. Justification and organizational points
    c. Objectives of the study
2. **Materials and Methods**
    a. Materials and location of the experiment
    b. Procedures and processes
    c. Data collection and analysis
    d. Statistical evaluations
3. **Results and Discussion**
    a. Synopsis of results
    b. Presentation of data (tables, figures, and supporting text)
    c. Discussion of significance, application, and relationship to other studies
4. **Conclusions**

Writing Style

Concise writing:

- Be direct
- Eliminate wordiness

Clarity:

- Correct usage
- Consistency

Wordy	Concise
absolutely essential	essential
at this time	now
due to the fact that	because
few in number	few
in order to	to
it should be noted that	OMIT
not different	similar
the creation of (noun ending in “-tion”)	creating (noun’s *ing* form)

It can be noted that salmonella is present during all phases of poultry production and processing. Although similar hygiene practices were practiced on all of the 10 poultry farms we examined in this study, great variation existed in the degree of salmonella contamination on them. From the results of this study, it appears that salmonella may be transmitted continuously through feed to the breeder parent stock, to the chicks, through the processing and finally to the finished broiler product.

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Salmonella is present during all phases of poultry production and processing. Although similar hygiene practices were practiced on all of the 10 poultry farms we examined, great variation existed in the degree of salmonella contamination. Salmonella may be transmitted continuously through feed to the breeder parent stock, to the chicks, through the processing and finally to the finished broiler product.

Salmonella is transmitted progressively from feed to breeder chicken and their offspring and then through the processing plant to the finished product. On 10 poultry farms using similar production practices, we found great variation in the degree of salmonella contamination.

Clarity

We should not write so that it is possible for readers to understand us, but so that it is impossible for them to misunderstand us.

--Quintilian (Marcus Fabius Quintilianus), rhetorician (c. 35-100)

Avoid Vague Words

✖ It was a good analysis.

✓ The analysis addressed three major concerns...

Avoid Overgeneralization / Absolute Language

✖ Deer mice never eat insects.

✓ Deer mice are not known to eat insects

Avoid Incorrect Usage

- Their / There / They’re
- Two / Too / To
- Cheap / Economical / Inexpensive
- Man / Woman, Male / Female
  - NOT lady
- Humankind NOT mankind

Correct Typing / Spelling

1. This system has been wildly applied by most laboratories in North America.

2. The amount of plant material was not sadistically different.

3. Cotton responds to both soil moisture and relative humility.

4. The father and his daughter stood together and watched the the elephant eating its dinner.

Correct and Consistent

- Edit carefully for consistency
  - Figure, figure, Fig, fig, Fig., fig., *Figure*, *figure*, *Fig, fig, Fig.,* or *fig.*?
  - Capitalization, hyphens, numbers

Correct Citation

Follow appropriate style guidelines meticulously

- Modern Language Association (MLA)
- American Psychological Association (APA)
- Chicago Manual of Style (Chicago N&B or A-D)
- The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)
- Journal Citation Styles

Resources

- Good English dictionary
- Good grammar book
  - See, https://writing.utoronto.ca/books/style-language-use-grammar/
- Style guide appropriate to your discipline
- Library Citation style guides: https://libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/c.php?g=708446&p=5053558#
- Academic Learning Centre

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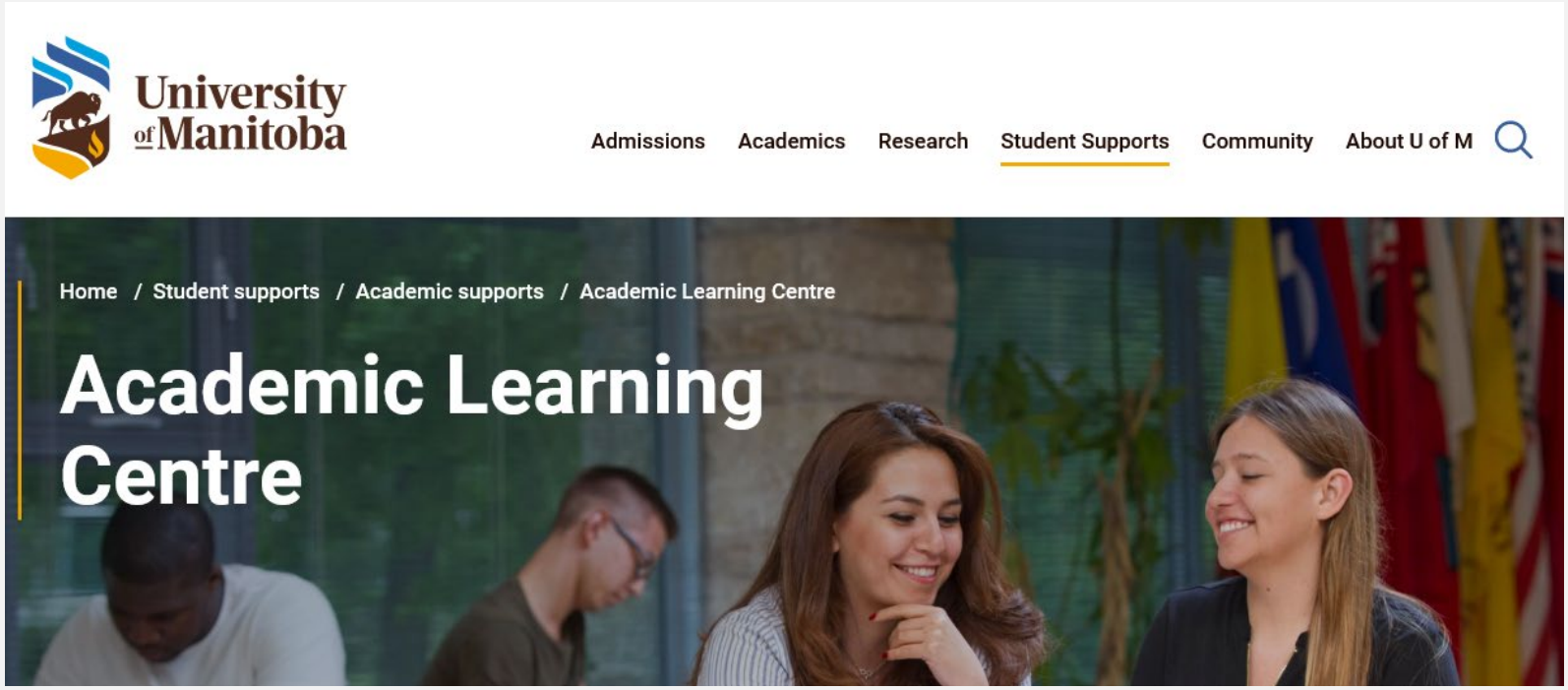

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