Writing at the Graduate Level

Academic Learning Centre
The University of Manitoba campuses are located on original lands of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation.

We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.
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Academic Learning Centre
academic_learning@umanitoba.ca
204-480-1481
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**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Good Undergraduate Writing</th>
<th>Good Graduate Writing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is mechanically correct</td>
<td>Is mechanically skillful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is concise</td>
<td>Is concise though also nuanced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is clear though not necessarily engaging</td>
<td>Is engaging, stylish, and interesting; the writer’s own voice is evident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May or may not demonstrate new ideas</td>
<td>Explores a topic or research question in an original way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contains citations when required</td>
<td>Demonstrates extensive research and is able to expertly integrate sources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uses transition words</td>
<td>Has a strong organizational frame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follows a reasonable, logical organizational structure</td>
<td>The paper moves from point to point in the way the writer wants the audience’s thoughts to move; structure grows out of content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is written for a general audience or for an instructor</td>
<td>Is written for a professional audience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will, with revision, be presentable at an undergraduate conference or in a general-interest publication</td>
<td>Will, with revision, be publishable in a professional journal or presentable at a good conference</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adapted and used with permission from Emily Head’s PowerPoint slides Fundamentals of Graduate Student Writing (slide 3) from the Academic Success Centre, Writing Aids, Liberty University at https://www.liberty.edu/casas/academic-success-center/wp-content/uploads/sites/28/2019/04/Fundamentals_of_Grad_Std_Writing_Counseling.pdf
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, Nordstrom, Arinell, & Knorring, 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.
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.
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, Nordstrom, Arinell, & Knorring, 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.
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.
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... 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
- Connect the ideas
- 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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wordy</th>
<th>Concise</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>absolutely essential</td>
<td>essential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at this time</td>
<td>now</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>due to the fact that</td>
<td>because</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>few in number</td>
<td>few</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in order to</td>
<td>to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it should be noted that</td>
<td>OMIT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not different</td>
<td>similar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the creation of (noun ending in “-tion”)</td>
<td>creating (noun’s <em>ing</em> form)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 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

✓ I have a hard time choosing between Hamlet and Macbeth.

✓ Among *The Tempest*, *Othello* and *Julius Caesar*, I would choose *Othello*. 
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 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/

• A guide for writing by and about Indigenous Peoples:

• Library Citation style guides:
  https://libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/c.php?g=708446&p=5053558#

• Academic Learning Centre
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https://umanitoba.ca/graduate-studies/student-experience/graduate-student-workshops
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- Oral Presentations
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- Integrating Sources
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- Notetaking at the Graduate Level
- Writing a Literature Review
- Writing a Research Proposal
- Writing a Journal Article

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- Using Sources in Academic Writing
- Preparing for Midterms
- Revising, Editing and Proofreading
- Preventing Procrastination
- Preparing for Finals

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Your feedback is valuable!

Please consider responding to this quick online survey.
Works Cited


