

Cultivating Conscious Writing Strategies to Improve Graduate Writing

With Dr. Jane Freeman (University of Toronto)

This workshop is designed to help graduate students clarify the content and structure of their literature reviews before they begin to write. The workshop will have two parts. First we will consider the nature of effective literature reviews – their functions and characteristics, and the common challenges students encounter when writing them. Second, participants will be introduced to a range of strategies for synthesizing and organizing the materials in literature reviews to create coherent documents. The workshop will introduce strategies to help students gain greater clarity in the content, structure, and language of their writing: strategies that are useful when writing not only literature reviews but also other genres encountered in graduate school, such as research articles and theses.

Tuesday, June 25 10:00am-12:00pm 10-301 (No pre-registration required)

Dr. Jane Freeman is the founding Director of the Graduate Centre for Academic Communication (GCAC) at the University of Toronto: a program that worked with 5,400 graduate students last year. She completed a B.A. and B.Ed. at Queen's University, a Master's degree at the University of Warwick, and a Ph.D. at the University of Toronto. Her areas of expertise are Oral/Written Communication, Classical Rhetoric, and Shakespeare.



From Assignment Design to Feedback: Strategies for Helping Students Improve Their Graduate Writing

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Lack of clarity in the writing of graduate students can have several, quite distinct causes: imperfect command of English; lack of familiarity with a field's jargon; limited understanding of core content in a discipline, and/or inexperience with the genres of graduate writing. In this workshop, we will discuss a range of ways to help graduate students develop greater clarity in their writing. We will begin by briefly considering scaffolded assignments that can help graduate students enter a new field of expertise before moving to the main focus of the workshop, which will be on giving effective feedback. We will discuss both formative and summative feedback and will consider what research has discovered regarding the efficacy of different types of feedback.

Wednesday, June 26 12:30pm-2:00pm 10-301

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