

# IGA – Academic and Project Writing

## Seminar 4

### Homework Task from seminar 3:

- \* Find and review a research article related to your topic of interest or research.
- \* Write a short 200 – 300 words (2-3 paragraphs max) summarising the article, including the purpose of the study, any significant previous literature, methodology, study findings and relevance, etc.
- \* Upload your text onto MS Teams (HW 3 file) prior to the next class.
- \* Be prepared to share and peer review it with the group next week.

### NOMINALISATION

#### 1. Nominalisation (noun forms)

- \* Which of the sentence pairs below would be more appropriate for academic writing and why?

a) Comprehension is aided by repetition.

You can understand something better if it is repeated.

b) Germany invaded Poland in 1939 and that was the immediate cause of the World War II breaking out.

Germany's invasion of Poland in 1939 was the immediate cause of the outbreak of the World War II.

c) The rapid increase in crime was causing concern among the police.

Crime was increasing rapidly and the police were becoming concerned.

d) Student numbers are increasing rapidly from year to year and the university is becoming concerned that they may need to build more accommodation to house everyone.

The rapid increase in numbers is causing concern at the university. More accommodation may have to be built in order to house everyone.

e) A team of scientists analysed the data in the laboratory before they completed their report.

The analysis of the data was undertaken by a team of scientists prior to the completion of their report.

f) The company's original conclusion that the establishment of increased flexibility in attendance hours has resulted in a decrease in absenteeism, was endorsed in the most recent analysis.

In a recent analysis the company confirmed its earlier conclusion that greater flexibility in attendance hours for workers reduces absentee rates.

(Adapted from Alison Brown, 2007)

## What is the effect of using noun structures instead of verb structures?

### Tips for academic writing:

- ▶ Academic writing usually has more noun structures than verb structures.
- ▶ The noun forms are useful in condensing text and when the focus is on conditions or results rather than actions.
- ▶ **Warning: too much nominalization can make your writing very dense, unnecessarily complex and tedious to read. You have to strike a balance in your writing.**

*There is now a trend towards more active, 'reader-friendly' academic language. However, if you get comments written on your assignment such as: 'style not academic', this is often what they are referring to.*

## 2. Verbs to nouns

\* *What is the noun form of the following list of verbs?*

\* *Practice using any unfamiliar vocabulary in context:*

- |               |                  |                |
|---------------|------------------|----------------|
| - assume:     | - assess:        | - authorise:   |
| - analyse:    | - conceptualise: | - establish:   |
| - distribute: | - randomise:     | - recruit:     |
| - evaluate:   | - establish:     | - interpret:   |
| - identify:   | - occur:         | - hypothesise: |
| - require:    | - respond:       | - specify:     |

- define:

- propose:

- debate:

adapted from: <https://www.academic-englishuk.com/nominalisation>

**Why is it useful to know the different forms of these verbs?**

### **3. Rewrite the following sentences using noun based phrases**

*\* Rewrite the following sentences, change the underlined parts of the sentence by using more formal academic language and noun based phrases.*

Many factors are important when talking about how fast the population is growing in developing countries.

Wages growth and labour productivity are both related to the amount of people living per square kilometre in a city.

He is a failure as he can't remember a word, nor does he know why he is going to be executed.

Menzel (1973) has shown that non-speaking chimpanzees can convey where food is located to one another.

It is easiest to list foods and drinks according to the best place that they should be stored.

The week after the patient is admitted appears to be the time when the risk is greatest.

At the point in time that the riots occurred, 36 per cent of the workforce in Handsworth were not working.

Parents want schools to better educate their children to give them more opportunities in the future.

It is always advisable to fly during the week in order to obtain discounted tickets.

Universities are always looking to improve the standard of their teaching and education.

#### 4. Make improvements to the text below

*\* Read the whole text below completely and think about the language used.*

*\*Then focus on the coloured sections. Try and reword them using some of the concepts we have been discussing (noun forms, formal language, reducing unnecessary words etc):*

*Stresses related to psychological state* are associated with *diseases of the cardiovascular system* to the extent that these diseases are among the most important group of psychosomatic diseases. *Stress and cardiovascular disease have been associated* for a long time, but there is still large ambiguity about the underlying mechanisms. An array of possibilities have been proposed including *the nervous system being overactive* and *changes within the blood*, which then converge on *poor function of the endothelium* that initiates unwanted cardiovascular consequences. We review some of the features of the two most important stress-activated systems, i.e., the humoral and nervous systems, and focus on alterations in *functions of the endothelium* that could ensue as a result of these changes. It is likely that *when the inflammatory cascade is activated* in association with oxidative imbalance represents key pathophysiological components of stress-induced changes *of the cardiovascular system*. We also review some of the commonly used animal models of stress and discuss the cardiovascular outcomes reported in these models of stress. The unique ability of animals *to adapt* under stressful conditions *reduces our ability to extrapolate* laboratory findings to conditions of human stress. An animal model of unpredictable chronic stress, which applies various stress modules in a random fashion, *might help us solve* to this predicament. The use of stress markers *to help indicate* stress intensity is also discussed in various models of *the stress of animals* and in clinical studies.

## 5. Writing a Research Proposal Abstract

*\* Rewrite the following sentences. Change the underlined parts of the sentence by using more formal academic language and noun-based phrases (nominalisation):*

1. A grant abstract summarizes concisely the project, usually appearing at the front of a grant application.
2. The abstract is an important part of the funding application, and should describe every major aspect of what you are proposing, in brief, except for the financials. Abstracts give funding agency staff and reviewers an idea of the scope of the work.
3. Many reviewers may rely heavily on the abstract to understand what you are proposing.
4. Reread what you are reporting and always ensure that you submit everything on time once it is completed.
5. Outline the main points of what you are projecting as you go. Most abstracts are restricted to 30 lines of text or 100 words.

Reference (adapted): [How to Write an Abstract for a Grant Proposal \(bizfluent.com\)](https://bizfluent.com/how-to-write-an-abstract-for-a-grant-proposal)

## 6. A Guide for Proposal Writing - Introduction

*\* Rewrite the following sentences. Change the underlined parts of the sentence by using more formal academic language and noun-based phrases (nominalisation):*

1. The staff of the Division of Undergraduate Education at the National Science Foundation (NSF) often provide and guide proposers informally.

2. Staff members give workshops on how to write proposals, answer questions by phone and e-mail, and talk to potential awardees at professional meetings and at the NSF.
3. The following is the essence of what is advised and often given to the inquirers.
4. What is suggested for improving proposals has been collected from a variety of sources, including the NSF Program Directors, panel reviewers, and successful grantees.
5. Ultimately, most proposals are peer reviewed in panels consisting of colleagues in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines or related fields, and the success in obtaining funding depends in great measure on how the reviewers judge and their written reviews.

Reference (adapted): DUE Proposal Writing Guide-Revision nsf04016

### **Homework Task:**

*\* Write a short essay 200 – 300 words (2-3 paragraphs max) giving your own opinion on how to keep your heart and cardiovascular system healthy. Think about general knowledge you have learnt over time for this.*

*\* You could also consider information such as: how exercising is beneficial for health, eating a healthy diet and reducing unhealthy foods, managing stress, avoiding smoking, getting enough sleep etc.*

*\* Think about using some of the concepts we have been discussing (nominalisation, formal language, etc). It's short, so think about how to include relevant information (eg introduction, main body, conclusion) in such a brief text.*

*\* Upload your writing onto MS Teams prior to the next class, Please name it again, eg. Floyd HW4 etc.*

*\* Be prepared to share and peer review it with the group next week.*