Seminar on Master's Thesis Writing

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Dangling modifiers

- Showing an increase of 5%, Stanhope [2] claims that the method of virus detection is feasible.
- After participating in the beta version of the software, the survey showed that the users had found the user interface too complex.

Linking words

- The results have shown that the application was successful. _____, the process has commercial application.
- The way the users behaved affected the overall performance of the application. Howard [5], ______, explains that the larger the user base, the more computer errors should one expect. ______, Allen [6] notes that 50% of these errors occur on a smaller scale.

Reporting verbs

- Howard [5], for instance, ______that the larger the user base, the more computer errors should one expect. However, Allen [6] ______that 50% of these errors occur on a smaller scale.
- Howard [5], for instance, argues that the larger the user base, the more computer errors should one expect. However, Allen [6] points out that 50% of these errors occur on a smaller scale.
- Howard [5], for instance, discredits that the larger the user base, the more computer errors should one expect. However, Allen [6] refuses the notion that 50% of these errors occur on a smaller scale.

Commas

- Separating multiple nouns (or other elements in a series)
 - The first, second and third experiment have shown that...
- Separating two independent clauses
 - Can stand on their own: "We first concluded that the results were an error in computation, but the second experiment showed that the error was due to the incompatibility of..."
 - Use little conjunctions FANBOYS (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so)
- Separating a modifier from the main clause
 - Modifier of place, time, ... (In 1998 at Berkeley University, the first computation was made...)