

### Looking ahead:

In three weeks, on Nov 13, you'll upload and bring to class a **first draft of your course writing project**. This does NOT have to be a complete draft of the whole piece, but I want to see that you've made a thoughtful start. I'll give you more details about this when we return from the break.

HW for Weeks 7 and 8 (through to Nov 6):

1. Next week (Oct 30), we will NOT have class. But by the end of the day on Tuesday, Oct 29, please upload your **Writing Project Proposal** to IS. The instructions for this assignment are in the Writing Project Proposal Guidelines, which I have posted to the main class folder. Read these right away so you know how to write your proposal.
2. Keep adding to your quotation notebook! Try to collect at least one quotation a day. And please bring your notebook regularly to class.

### Reading:

The readings for the next two weeks should help you think about some big questions of style and structure in academic writing. They are full (I hope) of very practical advice, but I hope they also challenge you to develop your own clear ideas about what makes "good" academic writing.

1. First, before you write your proposal, read the word pair "research / curiosity." Here I explain how I understand "research" in the context of this course and more generally. I hope it helps you think about some more ways to approach your writing project.
2. Next, read the two word pairs "author / actor" and "formal / informal." Both of these deal with how the formal aspects of writing affect the relationship between the writer and her/his readers.
3. Read these two articles:

“Should I Use ‘I’?” on the UNC Writing Center website (a fantastic resource for writers, by the way):

<https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/should-i-use-i/>

“Can I Use First-Person Pronouns in a Research Paper? Yes!” on the Wordvice site:

<https://wordvice.com/first-person-pronouns-in-research-paper/>

Every semester students ask me similar questions, so I’m curious to see what you think about the answers given here. The second article is especially useful – it gives lots of great examples of situations when using “I” or the passive voice might be useful or not so useful.

4. Read these two short introductions to the CARS model of academic writing, which was developed by John Swales:

<http://libguides.usc.edu/writingguide/CARS>

<https://www.umass.edu/writingcenter/creating-research-space>

Most students find the CARS model a very useful idea. I think it’s applicable to many different kinds and genres of writing, not just academic introductions. Again, I’d like to hear your thoughts about it.

5. Finally, read “Editing by Ear” (Ch. 4 of the book *Writing for Social Scientists* by Howard S. Becker). The chapter is a bit on the long side, but like the Richard Lanham chapter, it’s full of great, specific advice about writing clearly. It’s specifically aimed at social science students – but the advice Becker gives is just as useful for scholars in any other academic field. As you read, highlight what you think are the most helpful tips for you. In class, I’ll ask you to share one thing you highlighted.

OPTIONAL: If you like Becker, I also recommend reading Chapter 3 from the same book (I’ve also posted this on IS). Again, it’s full of great advice and examples from Becker’s experience writing and reading for academia.

## **Writing:**

Your main writing tasks are finishing your project proposal, and getting a start on your first draft. Besides this, I'd like you to do a couple of small tasks following up on our discussion of Lanham's Paramedic Method.

1. In class this week I gave you a handout from the Purdue OWL site based on Lanham's Paramedic Method (it's also posted in the Week 6 folder). We worked on the "Sentences for practice" at the bottom; we tried revising sentence #2. In the same way, I'd like you to apply the method and revise sentences #1 and #3 on your own. Write the results in your notes and bring them to class next time.

2. Next, try to find a real-life example (in English) of what Richard Lanham calls the "Official Style" of writing (some recommendations for sources: academic articles; textbooks; political speeches or press releases; government, school, or company websites; lists of rules/regulations; emails from supervisors/bosses (but in that case please remove the authors' names!))

Take a short sample (about 1 paragraph) from this source, PRINT it out, and see if you can apply Lanham's Paramedic Method to it (It's best to do this physically, on paper; take a pen/pencil and circle the prepositions, etc.).

Then, do your best at revising the paragraph according to Lanham's suggestions. Type up your revision or write it clearly by hand and bring it to class.