



Why Use Two Words When One Will Do? Academic Writing & Revising Skills

Dr. John Martino

Date: October 16, 2025 (Thursday)

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:50 p.m. & 2:00 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.

Venue: Centennial Campus, HKU

Overview

The workshop will focus on advanced academic writing and revising strategies designed to assist thesis-/dissertation- and manuscript-writing graduate students in both the Sciences and Humanities disciplines. Students will be presented with models and exercises, as well as provide samples of their own work, in order to facilitate “precision of expression” and encourage an “economy of language” approach through the writing and rewriting (i.e., revising) of academic composition. The structure, content, and writing of an Abstract will also be examined.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the workshop, students should be able to:

- Recognise what constitutes an academic Formal Writing Voice
- Understand two key concepts: Precision of Expression and Economy of Expression
- Apply various revision strategies to make their own writing more precise and economical
- Understand the structure and content of a working Abstract
- Apply various strategies to revise their Abstract in terms of structure and content

Learning Activities

Students will be presented with models and exercises in order to facilitate “precision of expression” and encourage an “economy of language” approach through the writing and rewriting (i.e. revising) of academic composition. Students will be encouraged to submit in advance the Abstract of their thesis/article-for-publication to be used as in-class models for writing and revising strategies.

About the Instructor

Dr. John Martino, Ph.D., was the Associate Professor of Extended English for International Students at Fisher College in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, prior to relocating to Hong Kong. Also a certified Teacher of English as a Foreign Language, Dr. Martino has worked with international English language learners for over 20 years, assisting them in their L2 English development as writers, speakers, readers, and critical thinkers. Additionally, he is a poet and photographer, whose creative work has appeared in numerous publications, including *The Boston Globe*, *New Orleans Review*, *North Dakota Quarterly*, and *Connotation Press: An Online Artifact*.