Thesis Writing Workshop Series for RPg Students

The following face-to-face thesis writing workshops for research postgraduate (RPg) students will be offered in Semester 1, 2022/23. Seats are limited and applications will be considered on a first-come-first-served basis.

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

Dates: October 14 and October 21, 2022 (Friday)
Time: 2:30 p.m. – 5:20 p.m. (3 hours/session; total 6 hours)
Venue: Main Campus, HKU (Details will be sent to successful registrants)

Overview:
Session 1 (October 14) will focus on advanced academic writing and revising strategies designed to assist dissertation- and manuscript-writing graduate students in both the Sciences and Humanities disciplines. 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.
Session 2 (October 21) will focus on the structure, content, and writing of an Abstract. Students will be encouraged to submit samples of their work ahead of time to be used as in-class models for writing and revising strategies.

From Topic to Thesis: The Art of Logical Argumentation

Dates: November 4 and November 11, 2022 (Friday)
Time: 2:30 p.m. – 5:20 p.m. (3 hours/session; total 6 hours)
Venue: Main Campus, HKU (Details will be sent to successful registrants)

Overview:
Session 1 (November 4) will focus on the construction of a logical, consistent, and evidence-based argument, including the production of a sound thesis statement, the use and importance of outside/secondary sources, and the organizing role that paragraphs play. The opening paragraph from the Introduction of the instructor’s own dissertation will serve as the initial model to highlight such features as continuity, coherence, and clarity of thought.
Session 2 (November 11) will focus on the structure, content, and writing of the Introduction section of a thesis and/or publication article. Students will be encouraged to submit “opening paragraph” samples of their Introduction section ahead of time to be used as in-class models for writing and revising strategies.

Paraphrase, Direct Quotation, and a Combination of the Two: The Use of Evidence-based Citations

Dates: December 2 and 9, 2022 (Friday)
Time: 9:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. (3 hours/session; total 6 hours)
Venue: Main Campus, HKU (Details will be sent to successful registrants)

Overview:
Session 1 (December 2) will build on the importance of evidence-based argumentation by focusing on the use of paraphrase, direct quotation, and a combination of the two to anchor and support one’s own ideas with those from authoritative outside/secondary sources. Students will practice their own paraphrasing skills and use of direct quotation via in-class exercises. Proper in-text citation of sources, the construction of a References/Works Cited page, and an overview on plagiarism will also be discussed.
Session 2 (December 9) will focus on the structure, content, and writing of the Discussion section of a thesis and/or publication article. Students will be encouraged to submit “opening paragraph” samples of their Discussion section ahead of time to be used as in-class models for writing and revising strategies.

The number of places for the workshops is very limited. Please ensure that you can attend before registration.

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 in 2016. 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.