
WRITING THE UNIVERSITY - A BALEAP WORKSHOP

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1 CONTEXT

At King's College, London, we are developing sets of writing development resources for post-graduate students across academic disciplines (Applied Linguistics, Business Management, Pharmacy, and History). The procedure we are establishing involves cooperation with disciplinary specialists to identify relevant text genres, and to collect examples of high and low scoring writing from students currently enrolled on these programmes. Working with the disciplinary specialists, we then identify a small number of high scoring and low scoring examples which can be used in teaching and independent learning materials, along with a much larger set which can be used for later lexical and grammatical analysis. The basic approach is that the disciplinary specialists provide us with an "unpacking" of what's good and less good in the examples we have chosen together, so that the English language teaching specialists in our own group can prepare writing development resources on the basis of the expert commentaries.

This is the first stage of a longer term project in which we are planning to move from text to corpus. In stage two we will use both our own Apprentice Writing Corpus and resources such as the BAWE (British Academic Written English) corpus, to develop supplementary materials which will enable students to focus on the linguistic exponents which are used by effective writers in fulfilment of discipline-specific tasks (e.g. appropriate citation, directing the reader, modifying claims and conclusions).

2 THE WORKSHOP

In the workshop, we will:

- briefly provide an account of the theory which underlies the writing development programme
- demonstrate the text resources that have been put in place and show participants how to do this for themselves
- share examples of the teaching materials we are using and give participants an opportunity to experience how the programme is delivered to students
- discuss future plans
- facilitate a discussion in which participants will be invited to give feedback on our approach and ask questions related to the writing development programme and its implementation
- facilitate a practical analysis session in which participants will be invited to apply the approach to examples of disciplinarily specific student writing that they have brought with them.

3 PREPARATION

To get maximum value from the workshop we recommend that participants obtain at least 4 examples of High, Mid and Low scoring written exemplars from the same disciplinary genre. Nesi & Gardner's Genre Categories might be useful to hold in mind. These are:

Genre families	Genres in History	Genres in Sociology	Genres in Engineering
Case Study			company report accident report
Critique	book review	evaluation of research methods book review	evaluations of products, techniques, performance, systems, tools and buildings
Design Specification			design plan
Essay	exposition discussion challenge factorial	exposition discussion	exposition discussion
Exercise			calculations short answer
Explanation			industry overview system overview
Methodology Recount			lab report design report
Narrative Recount		urban ethnography library search	reflection on team work
Proposal		research proposal	design proposal
Research Report	long essay	dissertation	project

Figure 1 - Nesi & Gardner 2012:30