



ENGLISH LANGUAGE TOOLS & RESOURCES WEBINAR

Webinar: English Language Tools & Resources

WEBINAR AGENDA

Introductions

- Introductions of workshop, facilitators, & agenda
- Prompt #1: In the chat function of your webinar screen, please write your name, program, and one big question or challenge that has emerged in your graduate writing in English that you'd like us to address today. This will be shared with the group.
- Brief discussion (questions will be addressed in depth during Q&A)

Discussion of writing resources

- Prompt #2: In the chat function of your webinar screen, please name one thing (resource, tip, strategy, tool) that has been helpful for your writing at the Graduate Center. This will also be shared with the group.
- Writing and Editing Tools (Handout)
- Resources (Handout)
- Writing Center individual appointments (cuny.is/writingcenter)

Q&A

- Group questions from beginning
- Additional questions

Fill out feedback form

WRITING AND EDITING TOOLS

- At the graduate level, the writing concerns of native and non-native English speakers overlap:
 - Wrestling our ideas into words is work!
 - Each graduate student must also learn the discourse, citation, and argument styles specific to her discipline.
- Non-native English speakers face additional challenges, which take time and effort:
 - Learning prepositional phrases (going *to* or *toward*?)
 - Remembering articles (*a* book, *the* book, or just *book*?)
 - Memorizing new synonyms to vary one’s prose (can I substitute *posit* or *postulate* for *argue*?)
 - The Baruch College Writing Center has a fantastic resource, “[Translanguaging: Using Your Native Language to Read and Write in English](#),” offering strategies to try during the brainstorming, research, and drafting stages of your writing.
- Once a graduate student has drafted a piece of writing, an “outside” tool can help her to refine its language and ideas, and to fix any errors.
 - Peer review is the ultimate outside tool in the academy.
 - A professor’s feedback stands in for this during graduate school.
 - Before we send it to these parties, we can—and should!—share our writing with classmates or consultants at The Writing Center.
- Self-editing strategies: how can we edit our papers on our own?
 - Try reading your paper out loud—you may catch mistakes that you would otherwise miss if you read silently.
 - You can also use Google Translate to read your writing out loud to you.
 - Then, find a spelling and grammar checking tool that you like.
 - The one built into Microsoft Word is robust.
 - Free apps/extensions like [Writefull](#) and [Grammarly](#) use Natural Language Processing to help not only with grammar, but with word choice and style too. Be aware that these extensions, while free, do access your data.
- For broader questions beyond proofreading a specific document, you may find the [Purdue OWL \(Online Writing Lab\)](#) helpful. Both the “General Writing Resources” and “English as a Second Language” sections address topics like grammar, sentence structure, and more.
- When you’ve identified areas in your writing in which you’d like to improve, practice!
 - Nigel A. Caplan’s [Grammar Choice for Graduate and Professional Writers](#) offers excellent exercises for eight grammar topics with names like “Clause Combination” and “Hedging, Boosting, and Positioning.”
 - The “[Activities for ESL Students](#)” page of *The Internet TESL Journal* offers useful quizzes, tests, exercises, and puzzles for non-native speakers.

RESOURCES FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE GRADUATE WRITERS

Baruch Writing Center. "[Translanguaging: Using Your Native Language to Read and Write in English](#)." Writingcenter.baruch.cuny.edu.

Caplan, Nigel A. *Grammar Choices for Graduate and Professional Writers* (2012).¹

---. "[Links and Resources](#)." Nigelcaplan.com.²

Carlock, Janine, et. al. *The ESL Writer's Handbook* (2010).³

Educational Testing Service (ETS). [Writing Mentor](#).⁴

George Washington University. [ESL Study Hall](#).⁵

Journal for Teachers of English as a Second Language. "Browse Links for Students." [Links](#).

Montclair State University. [Resources for Multilingual Writers](#).⁶

Open Education Database: [oedb.org](#). "50 Essential Resources for ESL Students" (2017).

Purdue University. [Online Writing Lab \(OWL\)](#).⁷

Swales, John & Christine Feak. *Academic Writing for Graduate Students: Essential Tasks and Skills* (2004).⁸

Turner, Adam. [English Solutions to Engineering Research Writing](#) (2009).⁹

Turner, Mark & Francis-Noël Thomas. [classicprose.com](#).¹⁰

Writefull. [WritefullApp](#).

¹ Cross-referenced with Swales & Feak. Caplan is Associate Prof. of ESL at the University of Delaware. Writing Services has a copy available for browsing.

² An excellent list of links for verbal practice, on paraphrasing, and much more.

³ A practical handbook.

⁴ Free add-on app. that provides feedback on writing using Natural Language Processing [NLP].

⁵ Old web design, but good content, including explanations and quizzes.

⁶ Extensive. Includes exercises.

⁷ Excellent. Includes exercises. See both the "General Writing Resources" and "English as a Second Language" sections for topics such as grammar, punctuation, "Writing for a North American Academic Audience," and more. Note that both sections address grammar and the content is not necessarily redundant; for ESL grammar questions, we'd recommend checking both sections.

⁸ "[T]argeted primarily, but not exclusively, at those whose first language is other than English" (2). Writing Services has a copy available for browsing.

⁹ Free ebook from the English Writing Lab at Hanyang University in Korea. Designed primarily for engineering and science students, but has practical advice that can apply to all disciplines. Geared specifically toward graduate students.

¹⁰ Website & online Guide with Exercises for *Clear and Simple as the Truth*. For all English writers.