USING DISCOURSE ANALYSIS TO IMPROVE RESEARCH AND CITATION PRACTICES

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ABOUT ME

Discourse analyst
Writing specialist
Librarian
THE SITUATION
Research a topic of your own choice
Create a thesis that answers your research question
Include a minimum of 5 academic sources
Use correct MLA/APA citation.
MISPLACED FOCUS

Problem # 1
LACK OF SYNTHESIS

Problem # 2
TROUBLESOME CITATION

Problem #3

[citation needed]
THE RESULT

Frustration for students and faculty
INFORMATION LITERACY
IDENTIFY THE INFORMATION NEED

ACRL IL Standards (2000)
SCHOLARSHIP IS A CONVERSATION

ACRL IL Framework (2014)
Close analysis of a piece of writing to identify specific features and how they are used.
INITIAL INSPIRATION
“cultures use genres to accomplish their social interaction [so] discourse analysis provides a window on the values and priorities of the community that created them”
Students can “learn to analyze the written discourse of the society around them and appropriate the results of their analysis for their own writing purposes”

Wennerstrom (2003)
SCHOLARSHIP IS A CONVERSATION

ACRL IL Framework (2014)
IN THE
CLASSROOM
TEACHING MATERIALS

The one-shot class

Multiple sessions – research project

Academic Integrity
ONE-SHOT Nursing ethics course
The Arguments

Why?

Why not?
BIAS

Headlines

Images

Word choice and tone

Selection or omission of information
ACTIVITY

Compare the story as presented by Robert Latimer and by the Council of Canadians with Disabilities.

1. Look at –
   • word choice
   • information included or omitted
   • conflicting information

2. What message is the writer giving?

3. How could we check the information?
Abstract: Background: An understanding of the factors that influence physical activity behavior is an important prerequisite for the design and implementation of physical activity interventions in adolescents. To date, no studies have investigated the factors that influence physical activity participation in Singaporean adolescents. Purpose: The purpose of this study was to identify the psychosocial and environmental factors that influence physical activity in a representative sample of Singaporean adolescents (N = 1,814, 919 boys, 895 girls, mean age 14.4 ± 1.1 years). Methods: Participants completed the Three-Day Physical Activity Recall and a questionnaire measuring hypothesized psychosocial and environmental correlates of physical activity. Results: Hierarchical regression revealed self-efficacy, enjoyment of physical activity, parental support, and participation in sport teams to be significant correlates of physical activity. Conclusion: Interventions promoting physical activity in Singaporean adolescents should aim to increase self-efficacy perceptions by offering enjoyable, developmentally appropriate physical activity options that promote mastery and adopt policies that increase parental support and awareness of community physical activity programs. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]
READ THE EXAMPLE ABSTRACTS

What kinds of articles are they?

Would they be suitable for this course?

How can you tell?
AGENDA

Components of a research proposal

APA Guidelines

Evaluating a research study
1. Review Xiaoli’s paper

INSTRUCTIONS:

Xiaoli has written a paper for her class. Unfortunately she has committed plagiarism 3 times! Can you spot the plagiarism in this short excerpt from her paper?

The Woman in Margaret Atwood’s A Handmaid’s Tale
By Xiaoli Chen

A Handmaid’s Tale (Atwood, 1999) looks at how women are treated in a future world. Women don’t have any rights and are controlled by men. Women who break the law are kept as slaves and forced to get pregnant.

The excuse for this control was originally not enough babies being born. “Despite all of Gilead’s pro-women rhetoric, such subjugation creates a society in which women are treated as subhuman.”
COLLABORATION

The key to success
Background
- Present Information, Establish Facts

Exhibit
- Explicate, Interpret, Analyze

Argument
- Affirm, Dispute, Refine, Extend

Method
- Critical lens; key terms, theory, style, perspective, discourse

BEAM
Joseph Bizup
Kate Ganski
PLAGIARISM

Vardi (2012)
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REFERENCES


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Incredible how. Jigsaw https://www.flickr.com/photos/incrediblehow/5577200173

Futureatlas.com. Citation needed. https://www.flickr.com/photos/87913776@N00/5129607997/


IMAGE CREDITS


V. Ring of Brodgar- light & color. https://www.flickr.com/photos/birdfarm/91862437

Daniele Margaroli. The key of my mind… https://www.flickr.com/photos/ul_marga/755378645

Kate Ganski. BEAM. http://ganski.files.wordpress.com/2013/03/beam.png

Unknown Author. Bengt Ruda’s chair and a plagiarized version. http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3ARuda%27s_chair_and_plagiarism.JPG