USING DISCOURSE ANALYSIS TO IMPROVE RESEARCH AND CITATION PRACTICES

Fiona Inglis- Seneca College
WILU 2014
ABOUT ME

Discourse analyst
Writing specialist
Librarian
THE SITUATION
STANDARD ASSIGNMENT

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
citations needed
THE RESULT

Frustration for students and faculty
IDENTIFY THE INFORMATION NEED

ACRL IL Standards (2000)
EVALUATE INFORMATION

ACRL IL Standards (2000)
SCHOLARSHIP IS A CONVERSATION

ACRL IL Framework (2014)
DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

My definition

Close analysis of a piece of writing to identify specific features and how they are used.
“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”

DISCOURSE ANALYSTS

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?

WELCOME TO ROBERTLATIMER.NET

Home
Robert's Letters & Documents
The Story
Medical Doctors
Professors & Professionals
Letters & Articles
Court Transcripts
The Disabled Speak Up
Links & Acknowledgements

We now have the complete transcript of Bob's second trial in 1997

Letter to the Supreme Court of Canada
July 22, 2011

Letter to the Supreme Court of Canada
August 24, 2011

Letter to the Supreme Court of Canada
March 31, 2012

An Article by Colby Cosh from an Alberta Magazine “The risk of scientifically blind justice”
April 2013

Letter to prosecutor Dennis Cane by Lawrence Greenspan
June 12, 2008

Council of Canadians with Disabilities

Overview
Litigation
Promoting Human Rights
Euthanasia
Assisted Suicide
Resources
Archives

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The Latimer Case: The Reflections of People with Disabilities

Table of Contents

Introduction by Hugh R. Scher
Biography: Robert Latimer by Elizabeth Benkow
Latimer Case Chronology
A Wake Up Call by Catherine Frances
Issues Raised by the Latimer Case by Cal Lambeth
A Parental Perspective by Brian Stewart
The Media and Robert Latimer by Prof. Dick Schoay
Deadly Compassion Peersome Kindness by Jim Derksen
Our Lives Are Worth Living by Catherine Frances
Latimer Archives
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
FUTURE DIRECTIONS
**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)
Fiona Inglis
Information Literacy & Liaison Librarian
Library, King Campus

Seneca College
of Applied Arts & Technology
13990 Dufferin St.
King City, Ontario L7B 1B3
T 416.491.5050 ext.55106
F 905.833.1106
E fiona.inglis@senecacollege.ca
REFERENCES


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IMAGE CREDITS


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

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


Arielle Nadel. Searching for the Perfect Rock. 
https://www.flickr.com/photos/bunnyrel/7093343239

Hevea Fan. Collection of old Hevea wellies.
https://www.flickr.com/photos/heveafan/5938842565/


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's_chair_and_plagiarism.JPG