

Yarmouk University

Community Medicine

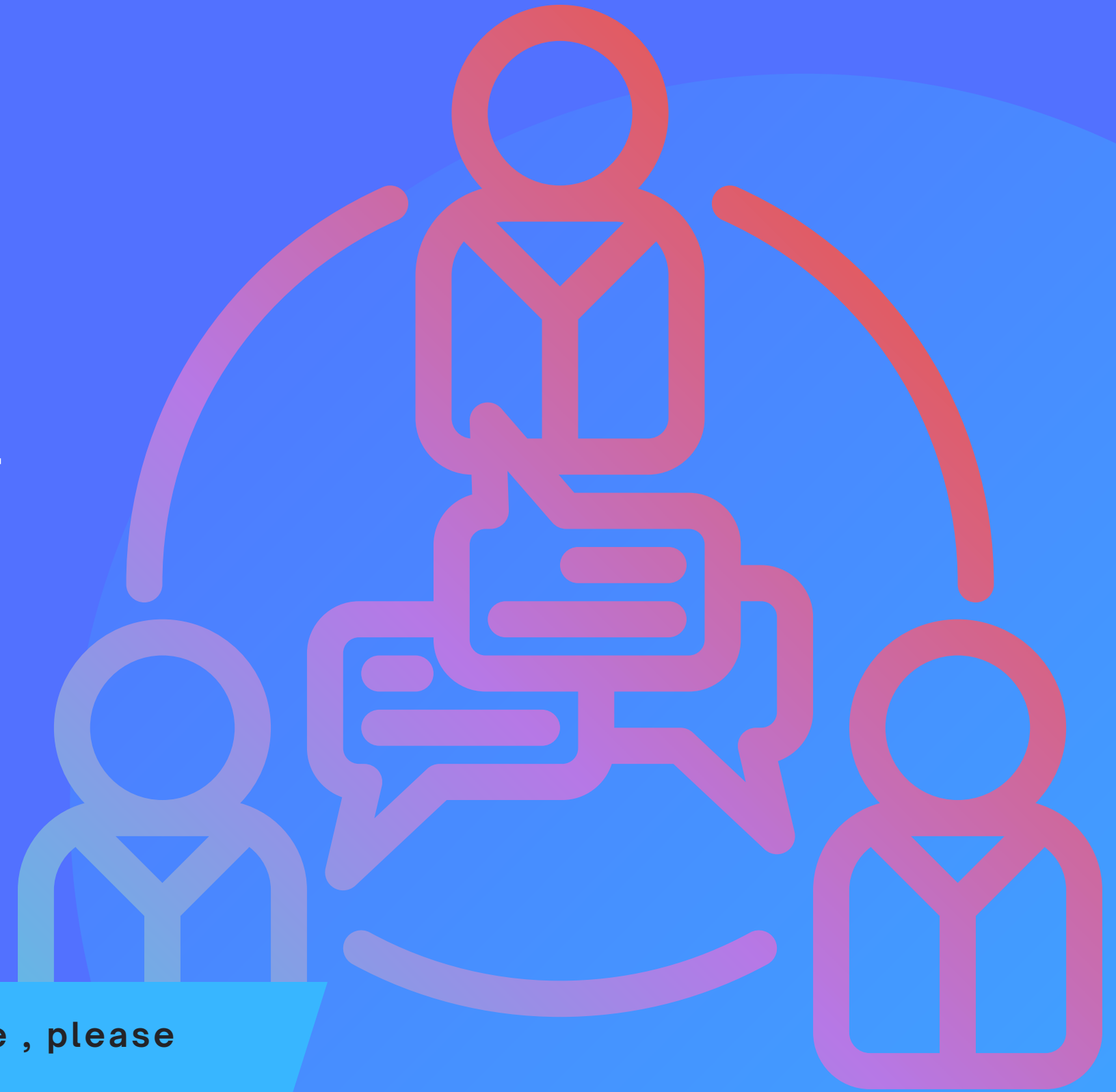
Lec. 6 - How to Define Your Project

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If you come by any mistake , please
kindly report it to
shaghafbatch@gmail.com





How to Define Your Project

Asking questions

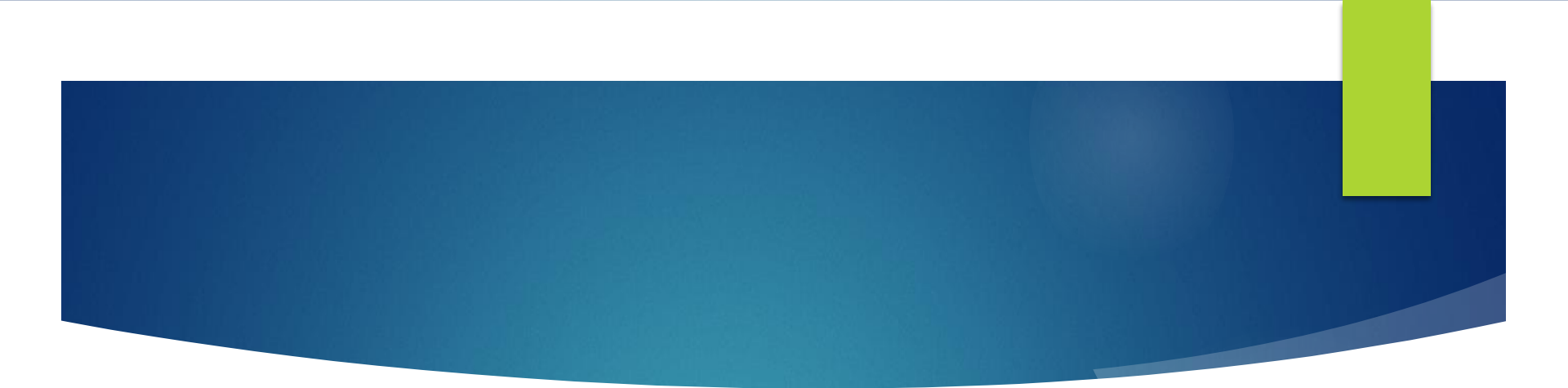
- ▶ Why have I decided to do some research?
- ▶ How can I remain interested in my research?
- ▶ What personal characteristics do I have which might help me to complete my research?
- ▶ What skills and experience do I have which might help in my research?

Everyone has something/task in the research

يعني المهارة اللي انت شاطر فيها اشتغلها
referencing مثال: الكتابة ، استخراج المعلومات،

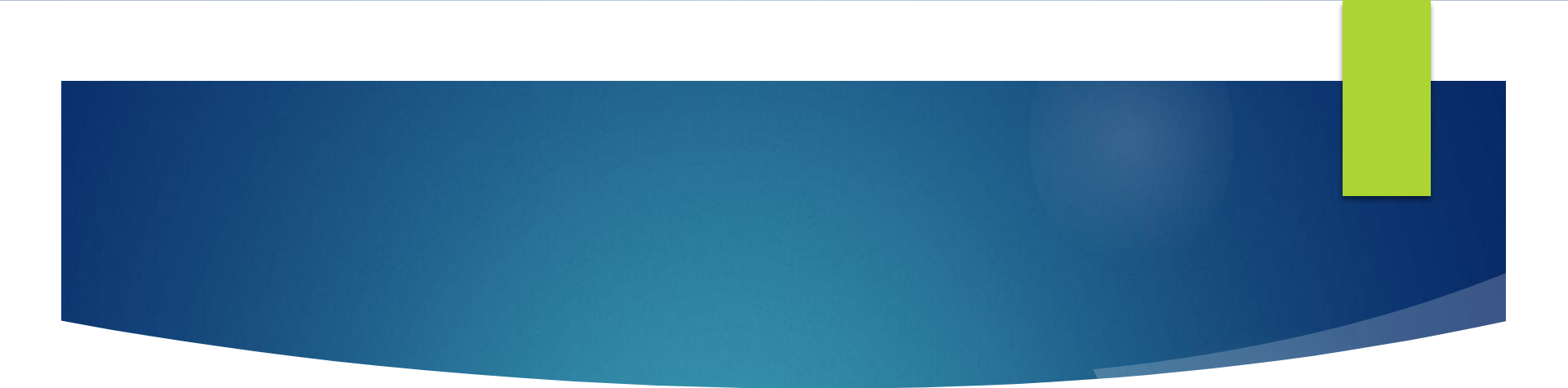
THE FIVE 'WS'

- ▶ What?
 - ▶ Why?
 - ▶ Who?
 - ▶ Where?
 - ▶ When?
-
- ▶ Once you have thought about these five 'Ws' you can move on to think about how you are going to collect your data.

- 
- ▶ You must take time to think about your research as this will save you problems later.
 - ▶ When you're thinking about your research, ask yourself the five 'Ws':
 - ▶ What is my research?
 - ▶ Why do I want to do the research?
 - ▶ Who are my research participants?
 - ▶ Where am I going to do the research?
 - ▶ When am I going to do the research?
 - ▶ Sum up your research project in one sentence.
 - ▶ Discuss your sentence with your tutor or boss and revise if there is any confusion.



How to Decide Upon a Methodology

- 
- ▶ The research methodology is the philosophy or general principle which guides the research.
 - ▶ Research methods are the tools you use to gather your data.
 - ▶ Qualitative research explores attitudes, behaviour and experiences.
 - ▶ Quantitative research generates statistics through the use of large-scale survey research.
 - ▶ Neither qualitative nor quantitative research is better – they are just different. Both have their strengths and weaknesses.
 - ▶ Your own intuition and the words you use will give pointers to whether qualitative or quantitative research is more appropriate for your chosen project.
 - ▶ The term ‘triangulation’ is used when a combination of qualitative and quantitative forms of inquiry are used.



choose the best way of methodology to answer your research question.

In this course choose the method that is easy and not time consuming.

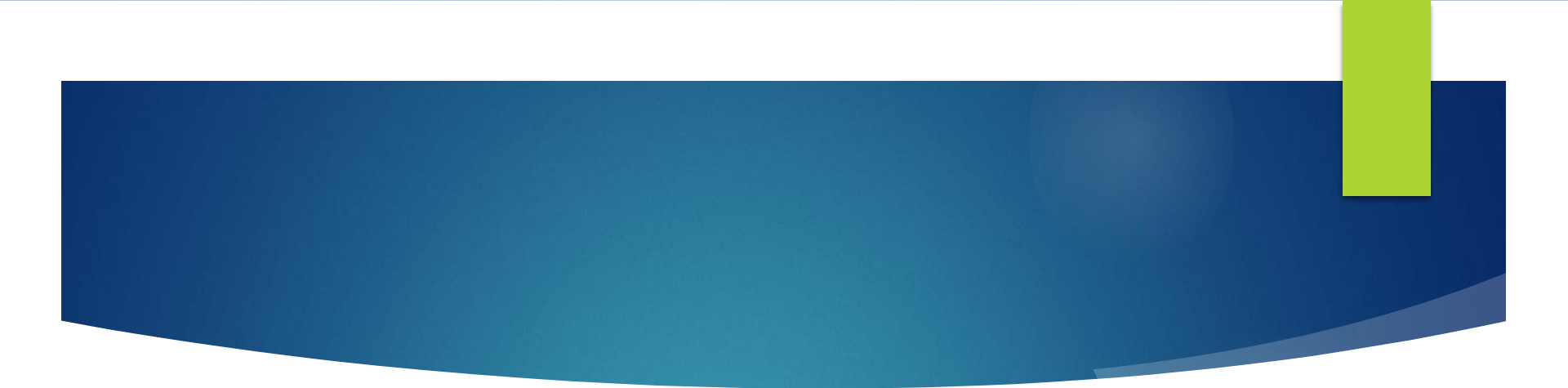
According to your research you'll choose which is more suitable Qualitative or quantitative.

Qualitative: structured/semi-structured interviews or focus groups.

Cross sectional studies: questionnaire and surveys (Close ended questions).



How to Choose Your Research Methods

- 
- ▶ Research methods are the tools that are used to gather data.
 - ▶ Three types of interview are used in social research:
 - ▶ – Unstructured or life history interviews.
 - ▶ – Semi-structured interviews.
 - ▶ – Structured interviews.
 - ▶ Interviews can be conducted face-to-face or over the telephone.
 - ▶ Focus groups are held with a number of people to obtain a group opinion.
 - ▶ Focus groups are run by a moderator who asks questions and makes sure the discussion does not digress.
 - ▶ Questionnaires can be closed-ended, open-ended or a combination of both.
 - ▶ Participant observation is used when a researcher wants to immerse herself in a specific culture to gain a deeper understanding.
 - ▶ The chosen research methodology should help to indicate the most appropriate research tools.



Making presentations

MAKING PRESENTATIONS: DOS AND DON'TS

▶ DO

- ▶ Arrive early and make sure the room is set out in the way that you want.
- ▶ Make sure that all the equipment is available and that you know how to work it.

▶ DON'T

- ▶ Rush in late, find that the overhead projector doesn't work and that you have no pen for the whiteboard.

Arrive early; being late will make your audience lose interest

MAKING PRESENTATIONS: DOS AND DON'TS

▶ DO

- ▶ Try to relax and breathe deeply.
- ▶ Acknowledge that this is your first presentation and people will tend to help you along.

Do something simple to help you relax
... audience will understand your
feelings and appreciate it so calm
down

▶ DON'T

- ▶ Worry about showing your nerves.
- ▶ Everybody gets nervous when they first start giving presentations and your audience should know this.

MAKING PRESENTATIONS: DOS AND DON'TS

▶ DO

- ▶ Produce aide memoirs, either on cards, paper, or presentation software such as PowerPoint.

▶ DON'T

- ▶ Read straight from a paper you have written

the most important thing while presenting is eye contact so don't keep your sight at the paper just use for memorizing ... connect with your audience.

MAKING PRESENTATIONS: DOS AND DON'TS

▶ DO

- ▶ Make it clear from the outset whether you are happy to be interrupted or whether questions should be left for the end.
- ▶ If you have invited questions, make sure you make every effort to answer them.

▶ DON'T

- ▶ Get cross if you are interrupted and have not mentioned that you don't want this to happen.
- ▶ Invite questions and then do not answer them or patronise the inquirer.

Decide when to allow questions ...
don't get upset by them

MAKING PRESENTATIONS: DOS AND DON'TS

▶ **DO**

- ▶ Look around the room while you are speaking – if it's a small group, make eye-contact with as many people as possible.

▶ **DON'T**

- ▶ Look at your notes, never raising your head.

MAKING PRESENTATIONS: DOS AND DON'TS

▶ **DO**

- ▶ Present interesting visual information such as graphs, charts and tables in a format which can be viewed by everyone.
- ▶ This could be PowerPoint or handouts.

▶ **DON'T**

- ▶ Produce visual information which people can't see, either due to its size or print quality.

MAKING PRESENTATIONS: DOS AND DON'TS

▶ DO

- ▶ Alter the tone and pitch of your voice, length of sentence and facial/ hand gestures to maintain audience interest.
- ▶ Show that you are interested in your subject.

▶ DON'T

- ▶ Present in a monotone voice with no facial/hand gestures. Make it clear that your subject bores the pants off you.

Keep Changing your voice tone while
presenting
To avoid being boring

MAKING PRESENTATIONS: DOS AND DON'TS

▶ **DO**

- ▶ Produce a paper or handout which people can take away with them.

▶ **DON'T**

- ▶ Let the audience go home without any record of what you have said.

MAKING PRESENTATIONS: DOS AND DON'TS

▶ **DO**

- ▶ Talk to people after your presentation and ask them how it went, whether there are any improvements they might suggest for future presentations.

▶ **DON'T**

- ▶ Run away never to be seen again.



Presenting your work as a journal article

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- ▶ Producing an article for a journal.
- ▶ Most academic journals do not pay for articles they publish, but many professional or trade publications do pay for your contribution, if published.
- ▶ However, competition can be fierce, and your article will have to stand out from the crowd if you want to be successful.



Process of research

1. Research question
2. Proposal (introduction, literature review, method, NO results)
3. IRB to fund your research
4. Collecting data
5. Statistical analysis
6. Writing manuscript (introduction,method,results, discussion)

Q : can you publish a paper at two journals at the same time?

A: it's unethical.

Tip for choosing the right journal

- ▶ Choose a topical, original piece of research.
- ▶ Do your market research – find out which journal publishes articles in your subject area.
- ▶ Check on submission guidelines – produce an article in the correct style and format and of the right length.
- ▶ Read several copies of the journal to get an idea about the preferences of editors.
- ▶ Produce a succinct, clear, interesting and well-written article – ask friends, tutors or colleagues to read it and provide comments.
- ▶ Make sure there are no mistakes, remembering to check the bibliography.



Look for the journal whether it's indexed in scopus or not.

Every indexed journal at scopus is categorized as (Q1 , Q2 , Q3 , Q4).

Best journals to publish at are Q1 , Q2.

Q: how are journals classified in this way?

A: depends on citation , the more citation used the more impact factor the journal gets , so it increases the journal's index.

Scimago: a website that classifies journals based on citation which is the same as Q1,Q2 ...



INTRODUCTION TO SCIENTIFIC WRITING

Principles of scientific writing

- ▶ Avoid ambiguities or misunderstandings
- ▶ Your aim is to illuminate, not to confuse (use the simplest language consistent with this goal-accuracy, brevity, clarity).
- ▶ Read representative samples of published work within your discipline-gain an idea of voice, tense and concision used
- ▶ Readers expect information in a certain order under specified headings
- ▶ Most use IMRaD format i.e.: Introduction, Methodology, Results and Discussion
- ▶ Watch your choice of words – use synonyms (words with same meaning), to provide variation to the reader
- ▶ Consistency i.e.: in spelling
- ▶ Use the correct citation style
- ▶ Use direct quotations sparingly
- ▶ Use the **active voice**
- ▶ Write in the proper tense
 - ▶ Past tense (methodology descriptions, discussion of other's work)
 - ▶ Present tense (for statements that are continuously true i.e.: facts and general truths)

Principles of scientific writing ...

- ▶ Even in scientific writing, too much use of the **passive voice** can cloud the meaning of your sentences.
- ▶ Use of the **active voice** often requires fewer words whilst conveying the same meaning
- ▶ Can inform the reader of possession – i.e.: who did the work.

EXAMPLE: agent/subject | action

- ▶ The entrance exam was failed by over one-third of the applicants to the school
- ▶ Over one-third of the applicants to the school failed the entrance exam
- ▶ The marathon was run by me in record time (passive)
- ▶ I ran the marathon in record time (active)

Principles of scientific writing cont...

- ▶ Write precisely and omit redundancy by:
 - Avoid hedging verbs i.e.: 'appear' and 'seem'
 - Avoid qualifiers such as 'perhaps', 'very', 'quite', 'several', 'essentially', 'basically', 'always' and 'actually'.
- ▶ Limit the use of prepositional phrases and adjectives

Hedging verb

WORDY EXAMPLE: 'In the first trial conducted in this experiment, there appears to be a demonstration of the effects when the substances are combined into one.'

Prepositional phrases

Redundant (combined already implied)

Active voice i.e.: subject/agent | action

CONCISE: 'The first trial demonstrated the negative effects of combining the substances'

Principles of scientific writing cont...

- ▶ Remember that you are always building an argument - **build arguments by connecting sentences**
- ▶ Structure sentences beginning with old information (topic position) and then new information (stress position)

UNCLEAR: "Intramembranous bones, in the cranium, are ossified from membranes transformed from mesenchymal tissues. The cranial vault, facial bones, the mandible, and the clavicle are intramembranous bones."

Topic position

CLEARER: "Some areas of the cranium are ossified from membranes transformed from mesenchymal tissues and are called intramembranous bones. These bones include the cranial vault, facial bones, the mandible, and the clavicle."

Stress position

By connecting the sentences in this way, the new information in the first sentence becomes the old information in the second, allowing the reader to follow the ideas being presented.

Principles of scientific writing cont...

- ▶ Keep the subject and verb close together (makes it easier for readers to follow)

EXAMPLE: “DNA, found in the body fluids (blood, saliva, urine and semen), soft tissues, bone, teeth, nails, hair roots (nuclear DNA), hair shafts (mitochondrial DNA), contains genetic code.”

Subject

Information to convey

CLEARER: “ DNA contains genetic code and is found in body fluids”

In this revision, the reader isn't bogged down by an extensive list of examples before understanding what the author aims to convey.

Simplifying a sentence...

Substitute a single word for each of the following phrases:

- ▶ at this point in time _____
- ▶ at that point in time _____
- ▶ has the ability to _____
- ▶ has the potential to _____
- ▶ in the event that _____
- ▶ in the vicinity of _____
- ▶ owing to the fact that _____
- ▶ there is no doubt that _____
- ▶ with the exception of _____
- ▶ in the near future _____
- ▶ in addition to _____
- ▶ in the course _____
- ▶ in the majority of cases _____
- ▶ it would appear that _____

Answers:

- ▶ at this point in time **Now**
- ▶ at that point in time **Then**
- ▶ has the ability to **Aptitude**
- ▶ has the potential to **Capacity**
- ▶ in the event that **if, when**
- ▶ in the vicinity of **Near, close**
- ▶ owing to the fact that **Because**
- ▶ there is no doubt that **Certain**
- ▶ with the exception of **Except, excepting**
- ▶ in the near future **Soon**
- ▶ in addition to **Also, and, besides, beyond**
- ▶ in the course **During**
- ▶ in the majority of cases **Most**
- ▶ it would appear that **Apparently, clearly, obviously**

Plagiarism

“An object (text, diagram, graphs, ideas) which has been taken from a source (books, journals, internet) without adequate acknowledgement, with or without intention to deceive.”

- ▶ Plagiarism is bad for your development as a researcher
- ▶ Whenever you refer to someone else's ideas or writing, you have to credit them by referencing their work.
- ▶ When you use a source **word-for-word without referencing** you are plagiarizing.
- ▶ Whenever you quote, you **must reference your source**

Plagiarism

SOURCE TEXT:

“Paradoxically, as we move towards constructing and rehearsing outlines and arguments, freewriting and generative writing can still prove useful, as we explore options. They can help us to move beyond the fragments of a thesis by having several attempts at pulling them together. They allow us to write briefly about the whole thesis. They can help us to find the type of story that our thesis will tell.” (Murray 2011: 117)

SUMMARISE:

Murray (2011) argues that we can use free and generative writing to develop a thesis.

Plagiarism

SOURCE TEXT:

“Paradoxically, as we move towards constructing and rehearsing outlines and arguments, freewriting and generative writing can still prove useful, as we explore options. They can help us to move beyond the fragments of a thesis by having several attempts at pulling them together. They allow us to write briefly about the whole thesis. They can help us to find the type of story that our thesis will tell.” (Murray 2011: 117)

PARAPHRASE:

It seems contradictory, but it is possible to develop a thesis using free and generative writing. These strategies allow us to synthesize our ideas. We can write our way towards a story for our thesis (Murray, 2011).

Plagiarism

SOURCE TEXT:

“Paradoxically, as we move towards constructing and rehearsing outlines and arguments, freewriting and generative writing can still prove useful, as we explore options. They can help us to move beyond the fragments of a thesis by having several attempts at pulling them together. They allow us to write briefly about the whole thesis. They can help us to find the type of story that our thesis will tell.” (Murray 2011: 117)

QUOTE:

Although free and generative writing are perceived to be strategies that belong at the start of a writing process, they can “help us to move beyond the fragments of a thesis by having several attempts at pulling them together” (Murray, 2011).

Plagiarism

SOURCE TEXT: If you found an information that was mentioned in 2 different papers which one should the citation goes for?

A: choose any paper between them

“Paradoxically, as we move towards constructing and rehearsing outlines and arguments, freewriting and generative writing can still prove useful, as we explore options. They can help us to move beyond the fragments of a thesis by having several attempts at pulling them together. They allow us to write briefly about the whole thesis. They can help us to find the type of story that our thesis will tell.” (Murray 2011: 117)

PLAGIARISM:

It is possible to move towards constructing and rehearsing outlines and arguments using freewriting and generative writing. We can move beyond the fragments of a thesis by having several attempts at pulling them together.



Mendeley – Referencing software

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=XTFVCIKSAPK](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XTFVCIKSAPK)