

ANDY VAN DROM

ENGLISH FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES

This series of workshops designed to help intermediate and advanced non-native speakers of English, currently students or researchers at the INRS, develop the linguistic, rhetorical and strategic competencies that they will need to successfully communicate their scientific observations and research in an academic writing context.

The duration of each workshop is one day (6 hours) and contains theoretical explanation and opportunities for individual and group practice. The workshops have been conceived to be modular and complementary, and will be offered at a distance (including video-based meetings and personal work) over six half days.

- Academic Writing I: sentence-level specifics
- Academic Writing II: paragraph-level structures
- Academic Writing III: document-level formats

PROPOSED WORKSHOPS

1. • Academic Writing I: sentence-level specifics

English for Academic Purposes represents a specific set of challenges for non-native and native language users alike, mostly due to its content-density and formality constraints. In this workshop, participants explore key issues and tools that will set them up for success when turning their ideas and information into sentences. More specifically, this workshop focuses on:

1. Vocabulary selection
 - a. Linguistic reference tools to increase autonomy
 - b. Levels of language
 - c. Gender-neutral language
2. Grammatical structures
 - a. Tenses, aspects and moods in English
 - b. The passive voice
 - c. Sentence structures and sentence variety

2. • Academic Writing II: paragraph-level structures

Academic Writing is influenced by linguistic and cultural customs and expectations. As a result, it is important for researchers to be aware of important differences with common formats in their native language and culture. In this workshop, participants explore essential concepts and formats that will allow them to produce clearly-structured paragraphs that correspond to English-language readers' format expectations. More specifically, this workshop focuses on:

1. Conceptual backbones of the paragraph
 - a. Thesis statement
 - b. Topic sentence
 - c. Connectors

2. Essential paragraph structures
 - a. Integrating direct quotes and paraphrases
 - b. Description, illustration and narration
 - c. Argument and persuasion

3. • Academic Writing III: document-level formats

Academic Writing formats offer little flexibility, thus increasing the importance for non-native researchers to understand and master some of the most common formats they will have to produce. In this workshop, participants explore diverse academic document formats in order to highlight their specifics and shared features. They are also invited to examine a format of their choice more closely, and start outlining and producing such a document pertaining to their own research. More specifically, this workshop focuses on:

1. The writing process
 - a. Outlining
 - b. Drafting
 - c. Editing and revising
2. Common formats
 - a. Reviews and annotated bibliographies
 - b. Abstracts
 - c. Research papers and field reports