

Seminar on Writing Scientific Articles in Organizational Psychology

Spring Semester, 2010
National Taiwan University
Psychology Department

Instructors:

Cheng, Bor-Shiuan, NTU Department Psychology

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Class Time: Tuesday 6:30 – 9:30 pm: One two-hour meeting per week, focused on scientific article writing in English

Class location: S306

Criteria for admission: Graduate students in Psychology with permission from the instructors

Introduction

Learning to write excellent journal articles involves acquiring both conceptual knowledge about the field of study, and procedural knowledge about writing. Therefore, a class intended to improve article writing is best approached as a kind of domain-specific training where instructors have both professional content knowledge and procedural knowledge of English writing.

The seminar has four goals for the participants:

- 1) To teach student the “inside out” strategy for writing an article;
- 2) To teach students to identify and clearly represent the 4 Ws in their articles: That is, (a) why was the research done; (b) what was done; (c) what was discovered; and, (d) why is it important.
- 3) To increase the writers’ skill in using conceptual structure in writing: especially focusing on improving the paragraph.
- 4) To teach students how to respond to journal reviewer comments using a “bottom-up” process.

Organization of the seminar

- (1) In each two-hour lesson, participants will spend time analyzing the 4 Ws from very important articles within the field of Organizational Psychology.
- (2) Students will practice in-class exercises designed to improve conciseness, cohesion, coherence, and paragraph quality;
- (3) Students will write an article that will be revised according to Professor Cheng, Bor-Shiuan’s comments and advice and if possible, submit the article by the end of the semester;
- (4) The class as a whole will create a guide to article writing that will cross reference the inside out strategy with excellent articles from the Organizational Psychology. The final version of the guide will be in pdf form with a table of contents and hyperlinks that allow easy cross-reference with the example articles.