

Welcome!

- Let us know where you are joining from.
- Download the PowerPoint slides for access later.

Strategies for Success: What is Academic Writing?

Beth Nastachowski

Manager of Multimedia Writing Instruction

Walden University Writing Center



WALDEN
UNIVERSITY

A higher degree. A higher purpose.

Housekeeping

Recording

- Webinar is being recorded and will be available online a day or two from now.

Interact

- Polls, files, and links are interactive.

Q&A

- Use the Q&A box to ask questions.
- Send to writingsupport@waldenu.edu

Help

- Choose “Help” in the upper right hand corner of the webinar room.

Learning Objectives

- Articulate the differences between academic writing and other forms of writing
- Identify the conventions of academic writing
- Understand effective writing habits and ways to incorporate them into your writing process

Poll:

At what stage of your program are you?

Academic Writing Overview:

a TYPE of writing used specifically in ACADEMIA that uses particular CONVENTIONS that differ from other kinds of writing.

Chat box:

What are your impressions of academic writing so far? How does it differ from other types of writing you've done at work or seen in books, newspapers, magazines, and online?

Academic Writing Conventions

Clear, consistent, and formal style

- APA

Formal organization and presentation of ideas

Analysis + Evidence

Academic Writing: Analysis

Analyze: “to learn the nature and relationship of the parts of (something) by a close and careful examination” (para. 1)

Summarize: “to tell (information) again using fewer words” (para. 1)



Fit **yourself** and your **ideas** into the conversation!

from the [Merriam-Webster Dictionary](#)

Academic Writing: Evidence

Books

- By scholars
- Sometimes published on scholarly presses (Yale UP)

Journals

- Peer-reviewed publications
- Not *New York Times*, *Newsweek*, etc.

Websites

- Government websites
- Websites by scholarly or professional organizations

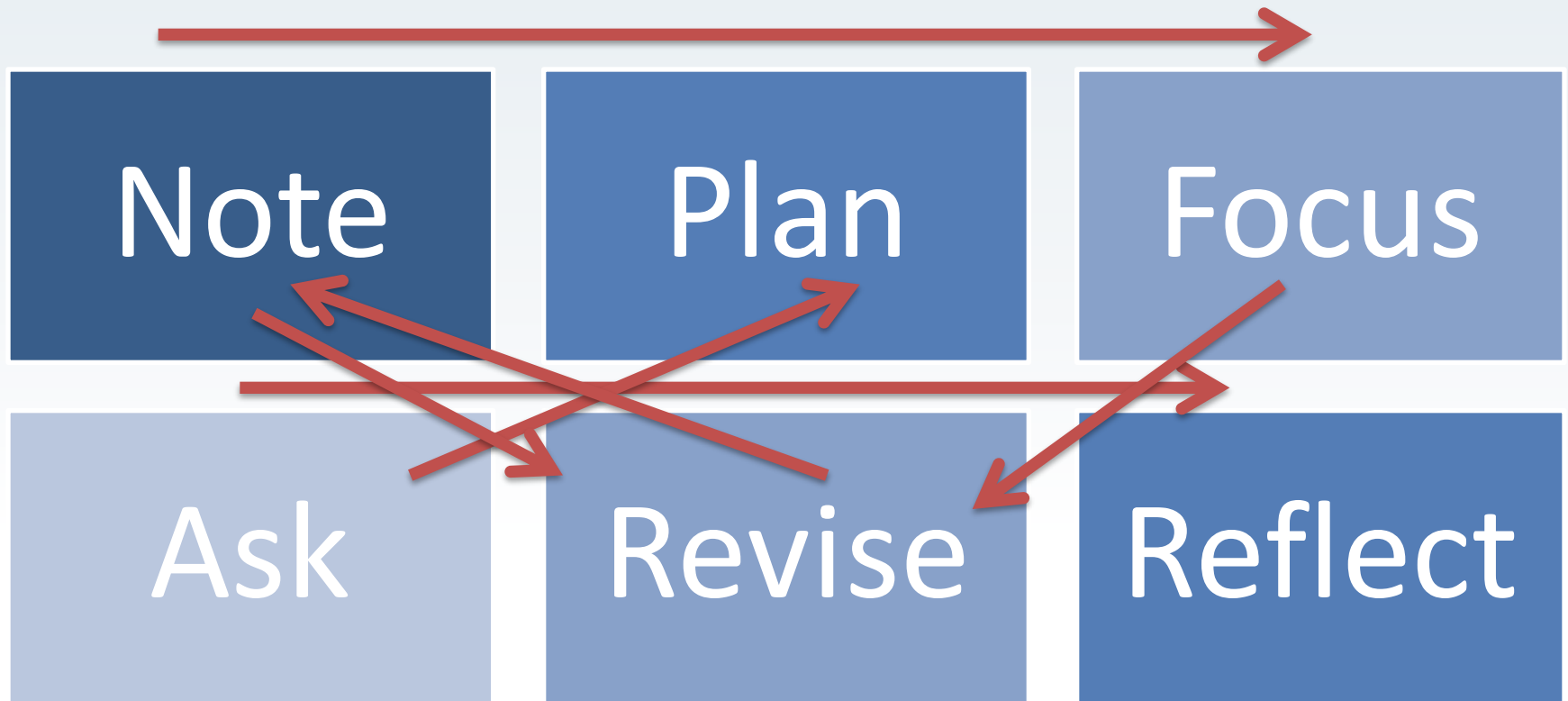
Academic Writing Sample

What are the characteristics of this writing that makes it academic?

Effective Writing Habits



Effective Writing Habits



Effective Writing Habits: Note

Read

- Engage with your reading *as* you do it

Sort

- Review and organize notes *soon*

Tools

- **Electronic (searchable!):** Word docs., online tools or programs, Zotero, Evernote
- **Paper:** Note book, index cards

Chat box:

How do you take
notes?

Effective Writing Habits: Plan

Outline

Use your notes, compiled by topic, to draft an outline before you begin writing

Tools:

- [Assignment Planner](#)
- [Outlining a Paper](#)
- [Outlining Your Outline](#)
blog posts

Timeline

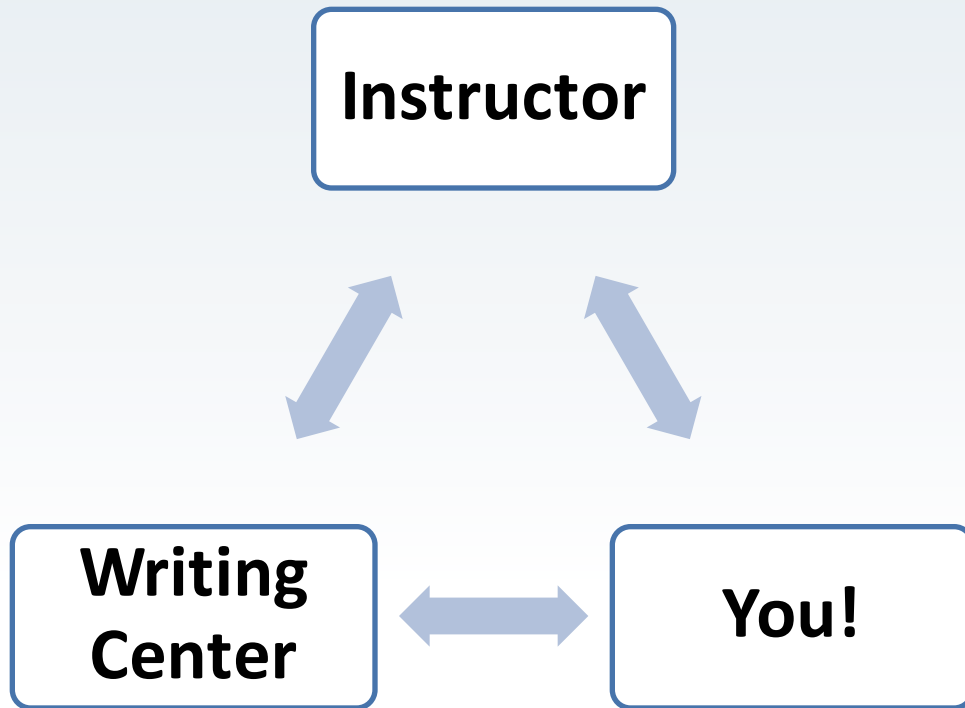
Estimate how much time each section of your outline will take to write.

Make yourself a writing calendar with each component listed.

Effective Writing Habits: Focus

Environment		Goals		
<p>Find what works for you:</p> <p>Busy coffee shop or quiet room at home?</p>	<p>Mix it up:</p> <p>If you aren't working well, figure out the problem and change it.</p>	<p>Small & achievable:</p> <p>Write a list to keep track</p>	<p>Reward yourself:</p> <p>Take a break, get coffee, watch TV</p>	<p>Stay on task:</p> <p>Keep accountable to your outline and timeline</p>

Effective Writing Habits: Ask



Successful students know when to ask for help and seek out resources.

You are the person who cares the most about your writing education—so take **ownership!**

Effective Writing Habits: Ask

Writing Center

- Webinars
- Paper reviews
- Grammarly
- Web resources & videos

Library

- Webinars
- Reference services
- Course materials
- Research help

Career Services

- Resume/CV review
- Webinars
- Web resources & videos

Reach out via e-mail!

writingsupport@waldenu.edu

library@waldenu.edu

careerservices@waldenu.edu

Effective Writing Habits: Ask

Dear Professor Jones,

I am a student in your ENG2001 course, and I had a question about our upcoming paper assignment. You asked use to use sources from the syllabus in the draft, and I was wondering how many would be appropriate to use?

They will be friendly.

Dear Professor Smith,

I wasn't sure what this week's assignment meant by "analyze Twain's use of water." Did you mean we should perform a close reading? Compare Twain's text to other contemporary texts? Something else? I'm getting started and would love some clarification!

Q&A box:

The same goes for this webinar.

What questions or comments do you have about academic writing so far?

Effective Writing Habits: Revise

REVISING:

reviewing your writing for organization, idea development, use of analysis and evidence, paragraphing, and flow

- Occurs **during** and **after** writing
- Used to **develop** and **clarify** ideas

- Create a reverse outline
- Use the MEAL plan to analyze paragraphs
- Get feedback from the Writing Center

Effective Writing Habits: Revise

Write

- Keep track of your progress
- Complete your final draft



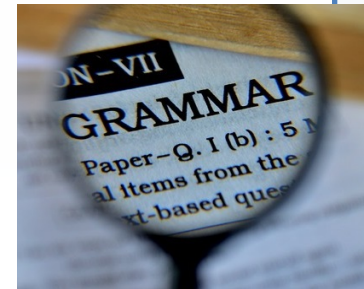
Wait

- Give yourself a break



Proofread

- Remember past suggestions
- Grammarly



Tip: Try reading your work aloud to yourself

Effective Writing Habits: Reflect

Before Writing

- Have I read everything necessary?
- Do I understand my assignment?
- Have I made an outline?

While Writing

- Am I allowing myself to get distracted?
- Am I following my outline?
- Am I asking for help when needed?

After Writing

- Did I give myself enough time to complete the assignment?
- Did I incorporate revising and proofreading?
- What worked well? What didn't work well?

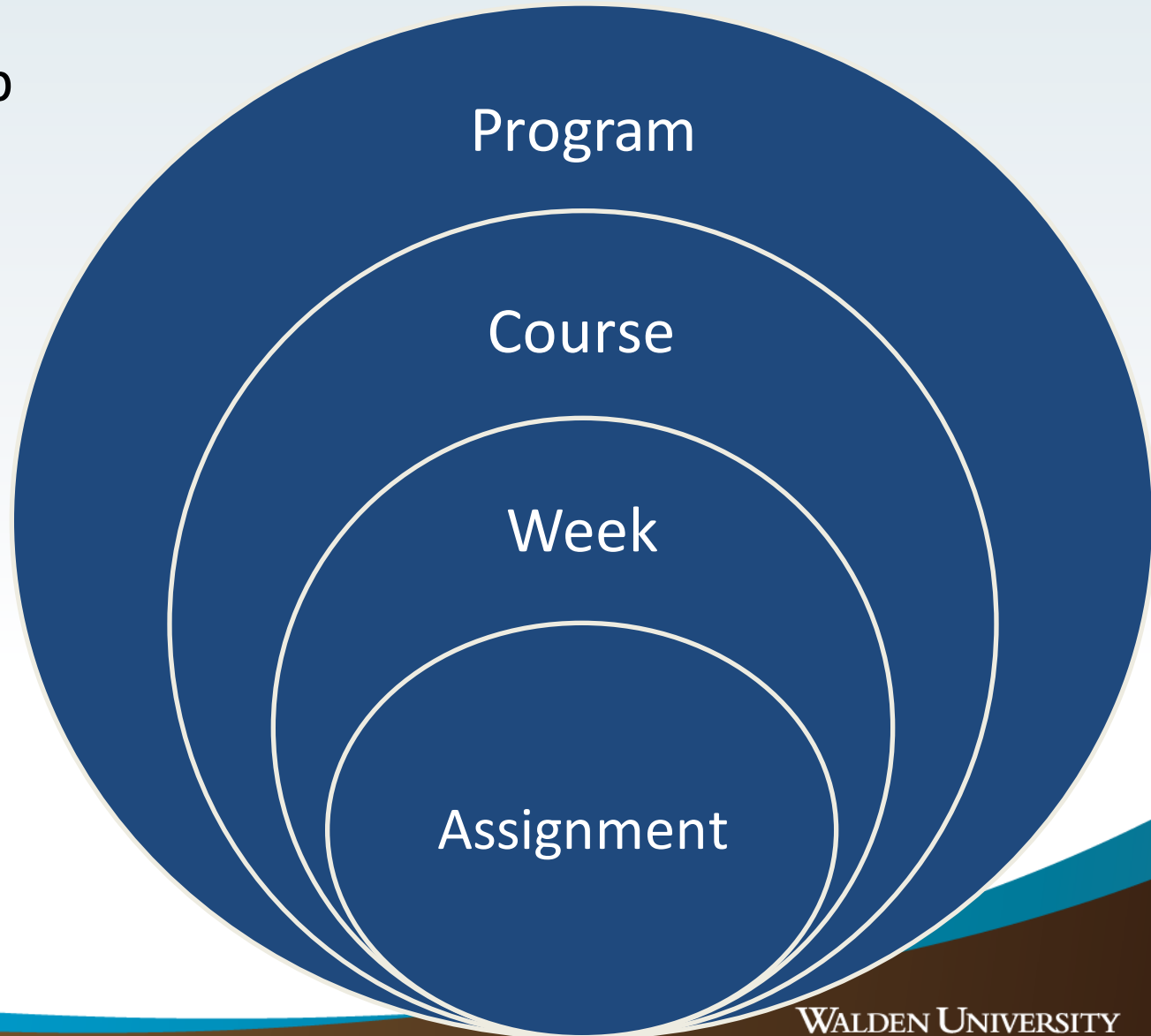
Chat box:

Ask yourself these questions.

Identify one area you could improve your writing habits.

Effective Writing Habits: Reflect

- How does this help me master this course's materials?
- How can I apply this knowledge in my current job?
- How can I apply this knowledge in my future courses?



Questions:

Now: Let us know! • **Anytime:** writingsupport@waldenu.edu

New to Walden and academic writing?

Check out the recorded webinars [Building and Organizing Academic Arguments](#) and [Writing and Responding to Discussion Posts](#)