People who can help with

Academic skills

Communication &

English language

Who are they?
Who we are

• Lecturers in academic skills and language

• Part of our job is to help YOU with your writing and speaking
What we offer

• individual consultation service

• lunchtime workshops

• resources - in print, online & in your subjects
Where to find us

Building 19, room G102 (behind the library)
Consultation service

Building 19,
room G102
(behind the library)

4221 3977
Make an appointment

best to book a week ahead
Discuss your work

The service is free & confidential

not an editing service, but a place to learn and improve
Language and Academic Skills Workshops, Autumn 2006

Lunchtime Workshops: 12.30-1.30pm (check the daily LRC board for seminar room location)
Students can find additional learning resources at the Learning Resource Centre, Building 19/G102.

Essay Writing A: Structure of the Essay
- 3 meetings
  - Wed: March 1 - March 15
  - or Thurs: March 16 - March 30
This workshop will introduce students to the basic principles of academic essay writing. We will look at how to analyse the question, strategies for researching the topic, and the use of essay structure to produce a well argued and well referenced essay. Please bring examples of your own essay questions and essay drafts.

Essay Writing B: Developing a Critical Argument
- 2 meetings
  - Wed: March 22 - March 29
  - or Thurs: April 6 - April 13
This workshop is for students with some experience of essay writing who would like to develop their skills further. There will be a brief coverage of the principles of essay writing, with a focus on using evidence and research to strengthen your argument and provide a focused and critical responses to the essay question.

Study Skills
- 1 meeting
  - Thursday: March 2
This workshop will help you to organise your study timetable in order to best prepare for your research, reading, writing tasks and assessment due dates. The focus will be on successfully managing your academic workload, and students are asked to bring current subject guides to class.

Academic Vocabulary
- 1 meeting
  - Monday: March 13
This workshop showcases resources and strategies to help you rapidly develop the general and specialist vocabularies you need in tertiary studies. Follow-up sessions can also be arranged to suit your needs and interests.

Pronunciation
- 1 meeting
  - Thursday: March 9
A fun and innovative course designed to help students with the pronunciation and intonation problems. Attention is given to different sounds produced by individual students, and useful tips are given on how to improve performance.

Presentations
- 1 meeting
  - Thursday: March 9
This workshop helps you plan and practice delivering university class presentations. While receiving constructive criticism on your material and delivery, you will also be practising how to give helpful comments to other students, and recognising what does and does not work in oral presentation of academic information.

Effective Referencing
- 2 meetings
  - Tuesday: March 21 - March 28
What are the best techniques to use direct or indirect quotations? Where is it appropriate to summarise or paraphrase? What exactly is plagiarism, and how can you avoid it? This workshop will address these frequently asked questions and will help you develop effective strategies to use referencing in academic writing.

Speaking and Listening in Class
- 2 meetings
  - Wednesday: March 22 - March 29
This workshop will help you develop strategies to improve your tutorial participation, ask questions of lecturers and fellows, and prepare for small group discussions and presentations.

Report Writing
- 2 meetings
  - Monday: March 20 - March 27
This workshop will guide you to identify the writing style, structure and referencing techniques of academic reports and case studies. Looking at sample texts, we will explore the best ways to incorporate references and develop a logical and critical approach to the structure of a report.

Grammar
- 2 meetings
  - Friday: March 10
The workshop will provide an introduction to the rules of grammar and how to improve your writing at your own level. Student feedback will be used to guide development assistance also available through the general learning support resources at the Wollongong University Online (ROOM 104).

Reading Strategies
- 2 meetings
  - Monday: February 27 - March 6
This workshop helps you manage your reading load, identify essential information and take useful notes. As well as keeping you efficient in your reading, the workshop will also help you understand and avoid plagiarism by effectively referencing your sources as you plan for assignments.

Critical Reading for Assignments
- 2 meetings
  - Wednesday: March 21 - March 28
Students are often asked to critically evaluate and analyse the text they are required to read for their literature reviews, essays or reports. This workshop will help you to develop a critical perspective while reading source material.

Exam Preparation
- 1 meeting
  - Wednesday: April 5 or Thursday: April 7
This workshop helps you prepare for your exams by discussing tips for effective test preparation, sample questions and forms of examination strategies.
Resources - in print

• Note-taking
• Critical thinking
• Essay writing
• Report writing
• Thesis writing
• Referencing
• Editing
• Managing time
• Preparing for exams
Resources - online

http://www.uow.edu.au/student/services/ld

uow.edu.au/student/services/ld
Overview

Learning Development is a unit within the Academic Services Division, working closely with students and faculty academics across the university to support and enhance students’ learning. The unit runs various programs that help develop specific tertiary literacies, and contribute to overall educational quality at UOW. Its academic staff are also available for individual consultations. UOW students and academic staff can explore the LD resources and services relevant to their needs and interests through the links below. LD also encourages your feedback, so please feel free to send us comments on any of the resources and teaching services we offer.

Information for Students
- Information for Staff
- LD Teaching and Support Staff
- Your Comments
Information for Students

Learning Development offers a range of free resources and teaching services to all enrolled students who wish to improve their academic performance. Explore the following links to our materials and program information.

Online Study Resources

- **Handouts**
  
  Explore the range of files on academic study matters, such as time management, note-taking, writing, avoiding plagiarism, preparing for exams etc. The documents are in Portable Document Format (PDF) format, for you to browse through, download onto your computer or print out from this site. For guidance on avoiding plagiarism, please click here.

- **UniLearning**
  
  This is a website with a wealth of information and interactive activities to help you think about, practice and develop your academic study and writing skills, such as note-taking, critical thinking, essay and report writing, punctuation and grammar.

Workshops

See the current program of workshops, designed to develop various academic skills. All workshops are run between 12.30 – 1.30 pm through the Learning Resource Centre (behind the library, on the ground floor of Building 19, in room G102).

Consultations

Phone or visit the Learning Resource Centre to make an appointment to discuss your academic work. Consultations are free and generally last for one hour. It is wise to book a week ahead, as demand for consultations can be very high. Staff will discuss your academic work with you and guide you towards effective learning and writing strategies. Please bear in mind that this is a teaching – not proofreading – service. The Learning Resource Centre is behind the library, on the ground floor of Building 19, in room G102. Phone 4221 3977.
Critical thinking

3. Critical writing

Introduction
In Unit 1, the concept of developing an argument was described in terms of critical thinking. Reading and writing, especially essay writing. There are several aspects to developing an argument: examining and evaluating the literature on the topic, developing your own position in relation to the question, and gathering evidence to support that position. The most important aspect in terms of writing critically is structuring your essay in such a way that your argument and the evidence to support that argument is clearly articulated. These aspects as well as other processes involved in critical practice in assignment writing are the focus of this unit. For a detailed examination of argument, see the self-access module Inner Writing Unit 2 — the argument: development and structure.

Getting started
Critical analysis can begin with your approach to an assignment question. Recognizing that there isn’t only one right answer to an assignment question should help you to realize that you can take a number of approaches when preparing your assignment. Firstly, getting started with your assignment should involve analyzing the question — what are you being asked to do? You also need to start thinking about how you could answer the question based on your lectures and other materials.

Often students are advised to look for the keywords when analyzing assignment questions. However, the concept of keywords doesn’t help
EDUF111 Essay Writing Resource: Student Handout

Section 1: Answering the essay question and developing an argument in your essay.

Exercise 1: Compare the following two essay excerpts (pp.1 & 2) and decide which one does a better job of answering the following question:

"The age-old nature-nurture controversy about the underlying causes of the course of development continues today, with some theorists attributing the course of development to genetic influences while others believe that the complex forces of the environment are responsible." Discuss the evidence for each of these positions and indicate how this debate will influence your future work.

Excerpt 1 (This is an excerpt from a complete essay and only includes the introduction section and the first sentence of each body paragraph)

Development of children is important to parents responsible for raising them.

EDUF111 Essay Writing Resource Tutor’s copy

Exercise 2: Compare the following two essay excerpts (pp.1 & 2) and decide which one does a better job of answering the following question:

Excerpt 1 (This is an excerpt from a complete essay and only includes the introduction section and the first sentence of each body paragraph)

Development of children is important to parents responsible for raising them.

Excerpt 2 (This is an excerpt from a complete essay and only includes the introduction section and the first sentence of each body paragraph)

Development of children is important to parents responsible for raising them.

Effective body paragraphs generally contain:

- a topic sentence (which carries the main idea of the paragraph - usually the first sentence of

- a supporting sentence (which provides evidence for the topic sentence)

- a concluding sentence (which summaries the topic sentence and relates it to the overall argument)
Remember

We’re here to help you with:

• study skills
• preparing for exams
• understanding & writing assignments
  – analysing the question
  – coping with reading
  – writing, citing & critical thinking
  – working in groups
  – understanding criteria & feedback
  – managing time