Academic writing in English and how the Schreibzentrum can help

Susannah Parker Ewing, Schreibzentrum der UHH / Zentrum für interdisziplinäre Studienangebote, Kontakt: schreibzentrum.isa@uni-hamburg.de
CLUSTERING

- Acker
- Kartoffel
- Ernte
- Produktion
- Landwirtschaft
- Knolle
- Schale
- pellen
- esser
- Pellkartoffeln
- Kohlenhydrate
- Pommes
- Süßkartoffel
- festkochend
- mehlig kochend
- Kartoffelbrei
CLUSTERING — MY STUDIES

Give it a try! Create a cluster: *What do I expect from my studies?*

You have **5 minutes**
FREEWRITING — HOW?

• Basically, just keep writing!
• Don’t stop, keep your pen moving!
• Write down anything and everything that comes to mind.
• Don’t worry about accuracy or style!
• Use any language or tool at your disposal.

Choose one branch of your cluster and use that to try focused freewriting.

You have 5 Minutes
FREEWRITING — WHY?

• Getting into the flow of writing
• Finding your way into a new topic
• Developing your thoughts and processes
• Overcoming hurdles, writer’s block and other difficulties
• Producing analogies, metaphors and other images to enrich your rational thinking

Foto: Giulia Forsythe
WHY WRITE?

• To process as you read
• To remember what you read & develop your own thoughts
• To create
• To sharpen your focus
• To reflect
• To communicate
• To share your knowledge
THE WRITING PROCESS –
A MODEL FOR ACADEMIC WRITING

ORIENTATION
finding and narrowing topics, formulating research question(s) and purpose

COLLECTING AND PROCESSING MATERIALS
researching, collecting data, reading and writing

STRUCTURING / PLANNING
organizing material and outlining argumentation

DRAFTING
processing knowledge through writing; putting ideas into words

EDITING AND REVISING
(re-)formulating knowledge for readers; requesting, receiving and applying feedback

PROOFREADING
checking orthography and grammar; creating lists and bibliographies; layouting

Activities

HOW DO I PRACTICE AND DEVELOP ACADEMIC WRITING (AND THINKING)?

• **Journal (write a few minutes every day)**
  What was interesting in today’s seminar? What do I want to know more about? What do I want to remember? Definitions and explanations …

• **Read relevant academic texts**
  a. Content: what is the author telling me?
  b. Structure: how is the text constructed?
  c. Language: how is it written? What can I learn from it?

• **Feedback**
  Read one another’s texts and give feedback and input on the content as well as the writers’ communicative success.
THE TEAM AT THE SCHREIBZENTRUM

Anne Benteler

Susannah Ewing

Fridrun Freise

Mascha Jacoby
THE TEAM AT THE SCHREIBZENTRUM, CONT.

Valérie Le Vot

Lukas Musumeci

Mirjam Schubert
THE TEAM AT THE SCHREIBZENTRUM: PEER TUTORS
TOPICS AND FOCI

- Academic writing as a process – from researching to finding a topic to revising
- Disciplinary writing conventions – e.g. in Law, the Humanities, Education, etc.
- Writer’s block, time management and other hurdles
- Writing as thinking and problem-solving tool
- ... etc.
OFFERINGS FOR STUDENTS

Currently digitally / online over OpenOLAT und Zoom:

- **Workshops** – during and between semesters
- **Write-ins** – two times per week!
- **Individual consultations** by writing coaches
- Offerings in **seminars** – in cooperation with lecturers and professors
- **Events** – *Schreibrekord, Woche der aufgeschobenen Hausarbeiten*, writing retreats
WORKSHOPS IN WINTER SEMESTER 2022-23

24.10. Vom Lesen zum Schreiben (online)

26.10. Blockaden überwinden, mit Freude schreiben (in person)

27.10. Vom Lesen zum Schreiben (in person)

3.11. Reading in English (online)

7.11. *Die Abschlussarbeit angehen*: Schreibzeiten und Schreiborte (in person)

10.11. Den Bücherberg bewältigen (online)

15.11. Zitieren und Paraphrasieren (hybrid)

16.11. Schreiben mit Struktur (online)

24.11. *Die Abschlussarbeit angehen*: mit dem Schreiben beginnen (in person)

30.11. Strategisch argumentieren (in person)

8.12. Den Schreibprozess verstehen (online)

15.12. Verständlich und interessant schreiben (in person)

12.1. Understanding the writing process (in person)

17.1. Routine statt Disziplin: Zeit- und Arbeitsplan (online)

18.1. Mein Thema eingrenzen und meine Fragestellung schärfen (online)

23.1. Raus aus der Prokrastinationsfalle (in person)

2.2. *Die Abschlussarbeit angehen*: Überarbeiten (in person)
WRITE - IN

Writing with community feeling!

• **Montag** 10-12
• **Mittwoch** 10-12
Find the Zoom links on [OpenOLAT](https://schreibjetzt.blogs.uni-hamburg.de/)

• **Any time**: Digital Write-in
[https://schreibjetzt.blogs.uni-hamburg.de/](https://schreibjetzt.blogs.uni-hamburg.de/)
(IN CONSULTATIONS) THE SCHREIBZENTRUM ...

- answers all your questions about academic writing – confidentially and free of cost or grading pressures
- provides room for experimentation
- provides opportunities for feedback on your writing
- helps you to understand how academics in your field think, work and write – and to acquire those practices
FIND THE **SCHREIBZENTRUM ONLINE AND VIA E-MAIL**

- [uhh.de/schreibzentrum](http://uhh.de/schreibzentrum)
- [https://schreibjetzt.blogs.uni-hamburg.de/](https://schreibjetzt.blogs.uni-hamburg.de/)
- [https://www.openolat.uni-hamburg.de/auth/RepositoryEntry/89882953/CourseNode/10124733609230](https://www.openolat.uni-hamburg.de/auth/RepositoryEntry/89882953/CourseNode/10124733609230)
- STiNE > extracurriculare Veranstaltungen > Wintersemester 2022/23 > Zentrum für Interdisziplinäre Studienangebote
- [schreibzentrum.isa@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:schreibzentrum.isa@uni-hamburg.de)
@schreibzentrum_uhh
WRAP IT UP: ONE MINUTE-PAPER

• What was most important new information just now?

• What questions do I still have?
See you soon!