Soc 161W: Sociology of Gender Writing Workshop
Tuesdays, 6:00-6:50 PM, SE2 1306

Amanda Pullum (apullum@uci.edu)
Office: SST 675

The object of SOC 161W is not only for you to learn sociological concepts and theories relating to gender, but also for you to develop your writing abilities. To that end, this workshop will be focused on improving your writing skills. We will practice grammar, punctuation, writing style, proper citation format, and any other writing-related concerns you have. We will engage in a process of drafting, peer reviewing, reviewing by the TA, editing, and writing final drafts. The writing workshop is for all students in SOC 161W, regardless of current writing ability.

Why do we have this workshop?

I believe that, with instruction and practice, anyone can become a good writer. Writing is like learning to play a musical instrument, cook a meal, or dribble a basketball: it may be difficult at first, but the more you do it, the better you will become. Whether you feel that you are already a good writer or could use some help, everyone can benefit from extra practice. This workshop will give you skills that you can apply to all aspects of your life, whether you are preparing a resume, writing a blog, giving a job presentation, or applying to graduate school.

Grading and Attendance

Workshop attendance is optional; however, you will receive two extra credit points for each workshop meeting you attend. You will not receive extra credit for the day if you are not present when your name is called, or if you leave early. If you repeatedly leave early or are often tardy, you may be asked not to return to workshop. Workshop activities will not be graded.

How do I become a better writer?

Read. Think about your favorite books—what makes them so good? When you come across an unfamiliar word, look it up and expand your vocabulary. Write frequently, even if it’s just a short journal entry. Ask others to give you feedback on your writing, and do the same for them.

Schedule

October 2: What should I write? Brainstorming and freewriting
- (Discussion) What would you like to learn in this workshop?
- (Activity) Brainstorming group paper topics
October 9: The first draft and the five paragraph essay
→ Lecture: Debate 1 on Thursday, October 11
  • (Activity) Your writing roadmap: How to create and use an outline

October 16: Grammar, spelling, punctuation
→ Lecture: Group paper topics due on Thursday, October 18
  • (Activity) Beyond spell check: How to edit your own and others’ writing

October 23: Style and content
  • (Activity) From adequate to excellent: How to make your paper shine

October 30: Peer review
→ Lecture: Debate 2 on Thursday, November 1
  ✦ Bring a draft of your debate 2 essay for peer review.
  • (Activity) Peer reviewing of debate essay drafts

November 6: Learning from others’ writing
→ Lecture: Midterm on Tuesday, November 6
  • (Discussion) How has your writing improved? What do you want to learn?
  • (Activity) What makes a good paper? How to write a critique

November 13: Peer review
→ Lecture: Group paper drafts due for TA review on Tuesday, November 13
  ✦ Bring a second copy of your group paper draft for peer review.
  • (Activity) Peer reviewing of group paper drafts

November 20: Avoiding plagiarism
→ Lecture: No class on Thursday, November 22
  ✦ Group paper drafts returned with my comments.
  • (Activity) Finding good sources, citing them correctly, and avoiding bias

November 27: Presenting your work
→ Lecture: Group presentations start Thursday, November 39
  • (Activity) How not to give a presentation

December 4: Preparing the final draft
→ Lecture: Group presentations on Tuesday and Thursday, December 4 & 6
  • (Discussion) What have you learned in this workshop?

→ Lecture: Final papers due in hard copy on December 14 at 10:30 AM
→ Lecture: Final papers due on turnitin.com on December 14 by 5:00 PM