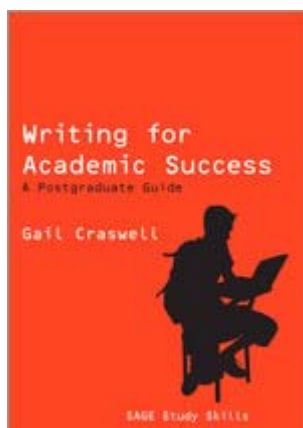


Book Review



Writing for Academic Success: A Postgraduate Guide

by Gail Craswell
London: Sage Publications (2005).

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Review by **Olympia Palikara**

Academic writing is one of the tasks that graduates may find challenging during different stages of their studies. Craswell's book aims to provide a guide that will enable the gradual development of good writing and communication skills. The major focus of this book is on writing, presenting and publishing.

The book consists of two parts. The first part of the book covers some general issues in relation to academic writing and communicating research. Chapter 1 discusses some suggestions for effective management of the writing environment including tackling both psychological and physical barriers. Chapter 2 briefly considers the complexity of academic writing. Then it provides some useful exercises that aim to help the reader to clarify the specific requirements of different types of writing, gather relevant information and critically evaluate relevant sources. Chapter 3 highlights the importance of consistency with academic standards related to spelling, grammar, proof-reading, referencing and avoiding plagiarism. It also discusses the importance of clarity of style in academic writing. The exercises and tasks provided also aim to help the readers to develop their skills in the relevant domains. Chapter 4 covers strategies that aim to help the reader with the whole text development. The strategies considered include brainstorming, mind mapping and sequential outlining.

The second part of the book covers more specific issues related to the different types of writing, presenting and publishing. Chapter 5 considers the different types of essays, book or article reviews and coursework exam papers. It also outlines specific strategies that can help with understanding, analysing and writing about a given topic. Of particular interest is the section that considers effective ways of developing and supporting arguments while writing. Chapter 6 discusses issues relevant to the writing of literature reviews, reports and research proposals. The example case studies provided are helpful for considering the different objectives that a literature review, for example, may serve. Chapter 7 examines in detail issues related to thesis writing. It provides useful advice about the usefulness of reviewing passed theses, as well as developing and managing a thesis-writing schedule. It also examines the important issue and challenging task of structuring a thesis and taking into account examiners' expectations while writing. This chapter is very detailed and the figures and tasks provided of particular practical help for clarifying relevant issues. Chapter 8 discusses oral presentations. The first part of this chapter outlines issues related to the different types of presentations. It draws an interesting distinction between tutorial and seminar presentations and clarifies relevant expectations. Another helpful element of this section is consideration of identifying appropriate conferences and funding. The second part of the chapter examines practicalities relevant to presentations, such as audience profiling, planning, PowerPoint and multi-media presentations and issues of delivery. The final chapter of the book considers journal articles and book publications. It begins with consideration of the pros and cons of publishing while writing a thesis. It then discusses issues related to co-

authorship and thesis requirements. The focus of the chapter is on considering issues related to preparing a paper for a journal.

This book is recommended to students at different stages of their studies. It is well organised and written in an interesting way. Of particular interest are the exercises, the case studies and the tables that accompany each chapter. Additionally, the practical strategies and tips provided in each chapter will help the students to avoid common pitfalls and to develop effective skills in dealing with common problems related to academic writing.