

WRITING IN PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology 204

East-West University/Fall 2022

Why is writing important?

- Everyone writes
- Writing helps you express ideas so others can understand them

Writing

- Assignments are not just busy work. They teach you to write in a variety of situations
 - Reports
 - Research papers
 - Case studies
 - Client notes
 - Quality assurance reviews
 - Grants
 - Contracts
 - Employee evaluations

Writing Assistance at EWU

- Notify me or go to the Student Success Center
- If your writing is below college level, I may ask you to get help upgrading your skills

YouTube Videos

Tips for writing

- Be concise
 - Use as few words as possible while still conveying the sentence's idea

Concision

Wordy: The politician talked **about several of the merits** of after-school programs in his speech
(14 words)

Concise: The politician **supported** after-school programs in his speech.
(8 words)

Wordy: Suzie **believed but could not confirm** that Billy had feelings of affection for her.
(14 words)

Concise: Suzie **assumed** that Billy **adored** her. (6 words)

Concision

Wordy: Our Web site has made available many of the things you can use for making a decision on the best dentist.

(20 words)

Concise: Our website presents criteria for determining the best dentist.

(9 words)

Concision

Wordy: Working as a **pupil under someone who develops photos** was an experience **that really helped me learn a lot.**

(20 words)

Concise: Working as a **photo technician's apprentice** was an **educational** experience.

(10 words)

Concision

- Check each word to make sure it's necessary

Wordy: The teacher demonstrated some of the various ways and methods for cutting words from my essay that I had written for class.

(22 words)

Concise: The teacher demonstrated methods for cutting words from my essay.

(10 words)

Concision

- Check each word to make sure it's necessary

Wordy: Eric Clapton, Stevie Winwood and Ginger Baker formed a new band of musicians together in 1969, giving it the ironic name of Blind Faith because early speculation that was spreading everywhere about the band suggested that the new musical group would be good enough to rival the earlier bands that both men had been in, Cream and Traffic, which people had really liked and had been very popular.

(66 words)

Concision

- Check each word to make sure it's necessary

Concise: Eric Clapton and Steve Winwood formed a new band in 1969, ironically naming it Blind Faith because speculation suggested that the group would rival the musicians' previous popular bands, Cream and Traffic.
(32 words)

Concision

- Combine sentences

Wordy: Ludwig's castles are an astounding marriage of beauty and madness. By his death, he had commissioned **three castles**.

(18 words)

Concise: Ludwig's **three castles** are an astounding marriage of beauty and madness.

Concision

- Combine sentences

Wordy: The supposed crash of a UFO in Roswell, New Mexico aroused interest in extraterrestrial life. This crash is rumored to have occurred in **1947**.

(24 words)

Concise: The supposed **1947** crash of a UFO in Roswell, New Mexico aroused interest in extraterrestrial life.

(16 words)

Tips for writing

- Decide on an idea you'd like to convey
- Decide what you want to say
- Develop an outline
- Be concise
- Use proper grammar and punctuation
- Let your writing rest for a while and edit fresh
- Empathize with the reader
- After you finish writing, outline what you've written
- Proofread!

Types of theme papers

- Argumentative: Attempts to convince the reader of some fact or information
- Descriptive: Words, persons, places, ideas
- Expository:
 - As brief and precise as possible
 - What did you set out to do?
 - Why you set out to do whatever it was
 - What you actually did
 - What you found out
 - Implications of what you found out

Kinds of writing

- Essay answers on tests
- Theme papers
- Term papers

Types of psychology writing

- Observational: You write what you saw or observed
- Case study: A report on a single individual
- Client notes: What the client did or did not do, said, felt and how the client appeared in individual or group treatment
- Case management report:
 - Describes what the client's problems and strengths are
 - Identifies resources for the problems
 - Specifies what happened as the result of identification

Clinical synonyms

- Said: Indicated, stated, verbalized
- Did: Accomplished, achieved, acted, brought about, provided
- Felt: Was (sad), appeared, experienced
- Attended: Was present, came to/went to (e.g., group, self-help meeting)
- Emotion/affect (sad): Depressed, “down”, “had the blues”, downcast, unhappy