

RESEARCH & WRITING WORKSHOP

Workshop Coach: Hughson T. Ong, Ph.D.

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Office room: 238 (McMaster Divinity College Press)

Office hours: Mondays & Wednesdays (12:30–2:30PM) or anytime (by appointment)

Workshop Schedule: 16 September—28 October

Workshop hours: Wednesdays (1:30–3:20PM)

About This Workshop

The MDC Research and Writing Workshop is your gateway to achieving excellence in your graduate work. Designed as a supportive/collaborative learning community, this workshop will help you enhance your ability in graduate-level reading and writing. The workshop is composed of six sessions, and each session focuses on one of the foundational tasks of graduate-level writing, which includes the various elements of comprehension in reading, skills in research and writing, and tools in English grammar, usage, and argumentation.

Cost: \$180—MDC pays \$100, student pays \$80

Workshop Activities

The bulk of time of the workshop will focus on tasks related to your actual coursework. This means that participants will collaborate in learning and practicing the foundational concepts and skills involved in graduate-level writing through their course assignments. In between these practice activities are short intermittent lecture periods that will ensure participants learning the best practices not only in academic writing but also in graduate-level education. The asterisk (see below) indicates the knowledge components involved in each workshop session.

Workshop Schedule and Lessons

Session 1 (Sept 16)

- I Don't Need This Workshop. Well, Actually, You Need It!
- Time, Time, and Time...Manage It Well!
- Oops...I Thought This Was the Thing Required in the Assignment.

*Overview of the research and writing process and its various components, time management and schedule organization, and different types of assignments

Session 2 (Sept 23)

- Of course I can write!
- Reading & Writing—I Didn't Know They're Twins.
- Learning Reading: Really? Don't I Know How to Do That?

*Initial strategies in research and writing, and various levels of reading

SYLLABUS—RESEARCH & WRITING WORKSHOP

Session 3 (Sept 30)

- The Principles of Simplicity, Clarity, and Unity

*Writing sentences and paragraphs, and elementary rules of English usage

Session 4 (Oct 7)

- There Is NO Easier Way to Learn English Usage and Style than to Write, Write, and Write.

*Common errors in grammar and usage, commonly misused words, phrases, and expressions, and punctuation marks

Session 5 (Oct 21)

- Structuring Your Essay Is Like Assembling Your Gourmet Burger

*Essay outline and structure

Session 6 (Oct 28)

- What Is a Footnote?
- I Can't Believe Writing Can Be Sinful!

*MDC writing style guide, citing and documenting sources, and plagiarism

Helpful Resources (available in the MDC bookstore)

- Adler, Mortimer J., and Charles van Doren. *How to Read a Book: The Classic Guide to Intelligent Reading*. Revised and Updated ed. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1972.
- Northey, Margot, Bradford A. Anderson, and Joel N. Lohr. *Making Sense in Religious Studies: A Student's Guide to Research and Writing*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.
- Strunk, William Jr., and E.B. White. *The Elements of Style*. 4th ed. New York: Longman, 2000.
- MDC Writing Style Guide:
<https://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/mdcstyleguide.pdf>

Gender Inclusive Language

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all of its publications. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV and TNIV are examples of the use of inclusive language for human beings. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments.