Midterm 1: College Writing Seminar

Prof. Jordan C. Hanson

October 8th, 2020

Assigned: October 9th, 2020 at 9:00 am. Due: October 12th, 2020 at 9:00 am. Submit all answers in one PDF document, and submit this PDF on Moodle under Week 5.

1 Week 1: Concise Writing 1

1. Using the delete button. For the sentences below, re-write them more concisely.

(a) Knowing the orbits of the stars around the center of the galaxy, scientists use the orbits to calculate the mass of the object at the center of the galaxy. The object has the mass that is so large the mass has to be of a black hole.

Scientists use the orbits of the stars to calculate the mass of the object at the center of the galaxy. The mass of the object is so large that it must be a black hole.

(b) Epidemiologists use a parameter called the reproduction parameter, R0, which is the number of new infections resulting from one new infected person.

Epidemiologists use the reproduction parameter, R0, which is the number of new infections.

(c) According to Newton's Laws of motion, things that have different masses and different shapes would still accelerate downward at the same rate when dropped.

According to Newton’s Laws of motion, objects with different masses and shapes would accelerate downward at the same rate.

2. Creating an outline. Create an outline of the following set of ideas, such that it describes how to determine optimal tomato growing conditions. Use the outline to write a well-organized paragraph describing the experiment. Submit both the paragraph and the outline.

Create a paragraph in your document.

- Ten tomato seedlings are obtained
- A patch in the garden is reserved with space for all ten
- A photo-sensor can be used to determine the light level at each spot in the patch
- Each tomato plant is given a different amount of water per day
- This whole process is done during the summer when the amount of sunshine is maximized

Ten tomato seedlings are obtained, and a patch in the garden is reserved with space for all ten. This process is done during summer so the amount of sunshine is maximized. The amount of sunlight is different in certain areas of the patch, so a photo-sensor is used to determine the light level at each spot in the patch. The amount of light in a particular spot determines the amount of water that plant gets per day. Therefore, a plant in an area with more sunlight receives more water so they all grow properly.

Outline:
https://coggle.it/diagram/X4ODPZzTlnKiv0Hj/t/-/dc29083062a4496b942c9f2203f88bff9745d581eeff099c36733369b6762

2 Week 2: Concise Writing 2

1. Hierarchy of detail and outlines. Choose from any of the 4 topics from slide 4 of the Week 2 Lecture Notes. Select 3-4 sources online and use them to create an outline with the appropriate hierarchy of details covering the subject. Submit the outline and a 200 word summary of the subject, written concisely and without ambiguous words or phrasing. Properly cite your sources.

4. Anything related to COVID-19 and the pandemic
• How fatal is the virus, and how does this vary for people?

The current fatality rate for COVID-19 is believed to be either 1% or 0.1%, but according to the National Bureau of Economic Research, neither of these numbers are able to be considered accurate because they are based on models (April 2020). Models had to be used due to the lack of reliable data regarding the amount of active cases and the number of people who are recovered and resistant from the disease. However, models can't be considered reliable because they are based on incomplete measurement. Therefore, more time needs to pass so more data can be collected to calculate an accurate fatality rate. Fatality rate also varies for certain people. According to the British Medical Journal, people with illnesses like cancer, diabetes, and chronic kidney disease are at a higher risk of death. One of the most relevant factors for these people is seeking treatment for their illness. If they choose to stop seeking treatment they are at higher risk of dying from their illness, but if they continue going to the doctor for treatment they are at a higher risk of contracting COVID-19. Another group that is at a higher risk of fatality from the virus is elderly people. According to the American Association of Retired Persons, underlying health issues, and weakness of the lungs puts the elderly at higher risk of perishing if they contract COVID-19. Once either of these groups have contracted COVID-19, their immune system isn't strong enough to fight the virus resulting in a higher death rate.

Sources:
National Bureau of Economic Research.
How Deadly is COVID-19? Understanding the Difficulties With Estimation of its Fatality Rate.

The American Association of Retired Persons
Why Coronavirus Hit Older Adults Hardest

The British Medical Journal
Covid-19 and Long Term Conditions: What if you have Cancer, Diabetes, or Chronic Kidney Disease?

Outline:
https://coggle.it/diagram/X4OVowlMQ6lYzNiw/t/-/80d30c55550cbde2070ab4efb0a0031e183e29c6f56cf50e9396ad285d4d00

3 Week 3: Technical Description 1

1. Removing ambiguous words. In the following sentences, remove or replace ambiguous words.
• When born, the baby was fairly heavy and really long.
When born, the baby was heavy and long.

• The baby grew really fast, by the time she was 1 year old, she was a lot longer.
The baby grew fast, by the time she was 1 year old, she was 8 inches taller.

• Radio transmission took a long while between the Earth and the Moon.
Radio transmission between the Earth and the Moon took hours.

• A hiker walked the full 60 km trail in 4 days, making her average speed moderate.
A hiker walked the full 60km trail in 4 days at a moderate speed.

2. Spatial and temporal detail, perspective. Recall the exercise we performed in class, in which we wrote our favorite recipe. In this exercise, explain to the reader from where you are gathering the ingredients, and the recipe. Thus, the result should be a tract of writing that would enable someone to prepare the dish using your kitchen and pantry. Notice how this requires you to pay attention to both time and space.

Starting at the entrance of the kitchen facing the two tall pantry doors, take a few steps into the kitchen and turn 90 degrees to the right to face the refrigerator. Open the left door of the refrigerator and grab the bread from the very top left hand corner. Also, take the grape jelly from the middle rack on the inside of the left door. Next, close the refrigerator, turn 45 degrees to the left, and walk up to the two long pantry doors. Open the left door and get the peanut butter from the front left corner of the third drawer. Turn 45 degrees to the left again and open the top skinny drawer just left of the coffee machine. Get a knife from the drawer and then place all four items on the counter. Reach to the left and get a paper towel and put it down on the counter as well. Now start making the peanut butter and jelly sandwich. First, take two pieces of bread from the loaf and set them on the paper towel side by side. Second, take the knife, spread the grape jelly on one of the pieces of bread and peanut butter on the other. Once both pieces are coated to satisfaction, put the pieces together with the sides of the bread with peanut butter and jelly on them facing each other. The sandwich is now complete. Now place the knife in the sink to the left, turn 45 degrees to the right to place the peanut butter back in the pantry, and turn 45 degrees to the right again to return the bread and jelly to the refrigerator. Finally, get the sandwich and enjoy.

4 Week 4: Technical Description 2

1. Convert to passive voice.

Rewrite the paragraph in your own document.

I measured the acceleration due to Earth's gravity, g, with a pendulum. First, I measured the length of my pendulum to be 20 cm. Second, I hung my pendulum straight down and displaced the bob 5 cm to my right. I released the pendulum and recorded the number of times it returned to the same position as it swung back and forth for one minute. I calculated that it returned to its original position every 0.90 seconds. I inserted my results into the formula predicted by Newton's Laws. The result for g was 9.81 m/s2 .

The acceleration due to Earth's gravity, g, was measured with a pendulum. First, the length of the pendulum was measured to be 20 cm. Second, the pendulum was hung straight down and the bob was displaced 5 cm to the right. The pendulum was released and the number of times it returned to the same position as it swung back and forth for one minute was measured. It returned to its original position every 0.90 seconds. The results were inserted into the formula predicted by Newton's Laws. The result for g was 9.81 m/s2.

2. Rearrange the sentences to have the proper hierarchy of detail.

Re-write a paragraph in your own document.

The trials were conducted in a room with no air conditioning, and therefore no air flow. The average horizontal distance bacteria travel after a person sneezes was measured. First, a sample of 20 infected people was gathered. The category of dishes with the largest colonies were the ones corresponding to 8.0 meters. Third, once each subject felt the urge to sneeze, the subject was required to aim the sneeze down the line without covering their mouth. The height of each subject was required to be within 6 inches of 5 feet 6 inches tall. Second, petri dishes were arranged in 0.5 meter intervals out to 10.0 meters on the floor in front of the subject. Fourth, bacterial colonies were allowed to grow in the dishes for one week under ideal conditions. These results inform the epidemiology of spreading bacteria. The results show that when a person sneezes, it is possible to spread infection to someone who happens to be 8.0 meters away.

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