# Midterm 1: College Writing Seminar

Prof. Jordan C. Hanson

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**Assigned:** October 28th, 2022 at 11:00 am. **Due:** October 31st, 2022 at 9:00 pm. Submit all answers in one PDF document, and submit this PDF on Moodle under the midterm 1 submission link.

## 1 Unit 1: Concise Writing 1

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

**Create an edited version in your document.**

(a) Orbits of stars around the center of galaxy help scientists calculate the mass of the object there. If the object has a huge mass it is certain that it's black hole.

(b) Epidemiologists use a reproduction parameter, which is the number of infections caused by a newly infected person.

(c) According to Newton's Laws of motion, things that have different masses and shapes would accelerate downwards 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.**

Outline:

Fifty tomato seedlings are obtained

A 50 different greenhouses are reserved , 1 greenhouse for each tomato.

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

Paragraph:

50 tomatoes are planted in 50 different greenhouses. Each place is given temperature with a gap of 5 °C , for example 1st greenhouse will have a temperature of 5°C and the next one will have 10°C and it keeps increasing. Likewise humidity and water is given differently to each sample. Light being measured by a photo sensor, water by irrigation and humidity by the greenhouse system. Then the most healthy tomato will have the most optimal conditions.

## 2 Unit 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 hierachy 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.

**Add the work to your document.**

Andrew Wakefield and 12 of his colleagues published in "the Lanceta" a case series in 1998 which implied that the MMR vaccine contributes to autism that affects how people interact with others. After a considerable amount of time, medical studies were held and published, disproving the link between the vaccine and ASD (Autism spectrum disorder). The logic that the MMR vaccine may cause autism was also questioned because a link between the two is almost expected. Both of these things are expected only in childhood. The publishing of this research by Andrew Wakefield contributed highly to the use of MMR vaccines since most parents were concerned about the risk of autism after the vaccination was injected.

This ignorance of MMR vaccines led to measles outbreaks in the United Kingdom as well as USA and Canada between 2008 and 2009, therefore, causing harm to the over 200 people and it infected them with measles. 85% of the infected people were the ones who didn't get MMR vaccine. This caused great harm to the scientific cause of medical research too.

A while later, a retraction was made by 10 of the 12 original authors, to the original publication. According to the retraction, no specific connection was found between the MMR vaccine and ASD due to insufficient use of data during the research.

# 3 Unit 3: Technical Description 1

1. *Removing ambiguous words.* In the following sentences, remove or replace ambiguous words.

   **Write the new sentences in your own document.**

   - When born, the baby was fairly heavy and tall.
   - The baby grew really fast, by the time she was 1 year old, she was a lot taller.
   - Radio transmission took a while between the Earth and the Moon.
   - A hiker walked the full 60 km trail in 4 days, making her  speed average.

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.

   **Write a paragraph in your own document.**

   Let's make noodles. As you enter the kitchen, on the extreme right hand side there is a red basket with only 1 pot, its lid and a packet of noodles. Take them out. Now, from the tap beside that basket, half fill the pot with water. Now open the packet and take the noodles and the sauce out and add them to the same pot.  Now go the middle of the kitchen where the stove is located. Put the pot on the stove, put the lid on it and twist its knob anti-clockwise till it becomes horizontal. Now note the time from the watch on your wrist. After exactly 10 minutes twist the knob back to it's vertical position. Now your food is ready to eat.

Unit 4: Technical Description 2

1. *Convert to passive voice.*

   **Re-write the paragraph in your own document.**

   The acceleration due to Earth's gravity, $g$, was measured by me with a pendulum. First, 20 cm length of pendulum was measured by me. Second, my pendulum was hung straight down and the bob was displaced 5 cm to my right by me. Then the pendulum was released and  the number of times were recorded by me. It returned to the same position as it

swung back and forth for one minute. The fact that returned to its original position every 0.90 seconds was calculated by me. The results were inserted into the formula predicted by Newton's Laws. The result for $g$ was 9.81 m/s$^2$.

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

**Re-write a paragraph in your own document.**

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

4. *Rearrange the sentences to have the proper hierarchy of detail, and convert to passive voice. Remove ambiguous words, and make the writing more concise.*

**Re-write a paragraph in your own document.**

Using a diagram of the forces, we show that the tangent of the angle is the friction coefficient. Eraser was placed on a meter stick. Then the angle between the meter stick and the table was increased, which was measured by a protractor. The angle was increased until the eraser slid off. The tangent of angle was measured many times. Average friction coefficient was 0.095. It's standard deviation was 0.05. A future idea for an experiment is to change the temperature of the eraser and determine if the friction coefficient depends on temperature.