

ACADEMIC WRITING

Econometrics 2.6

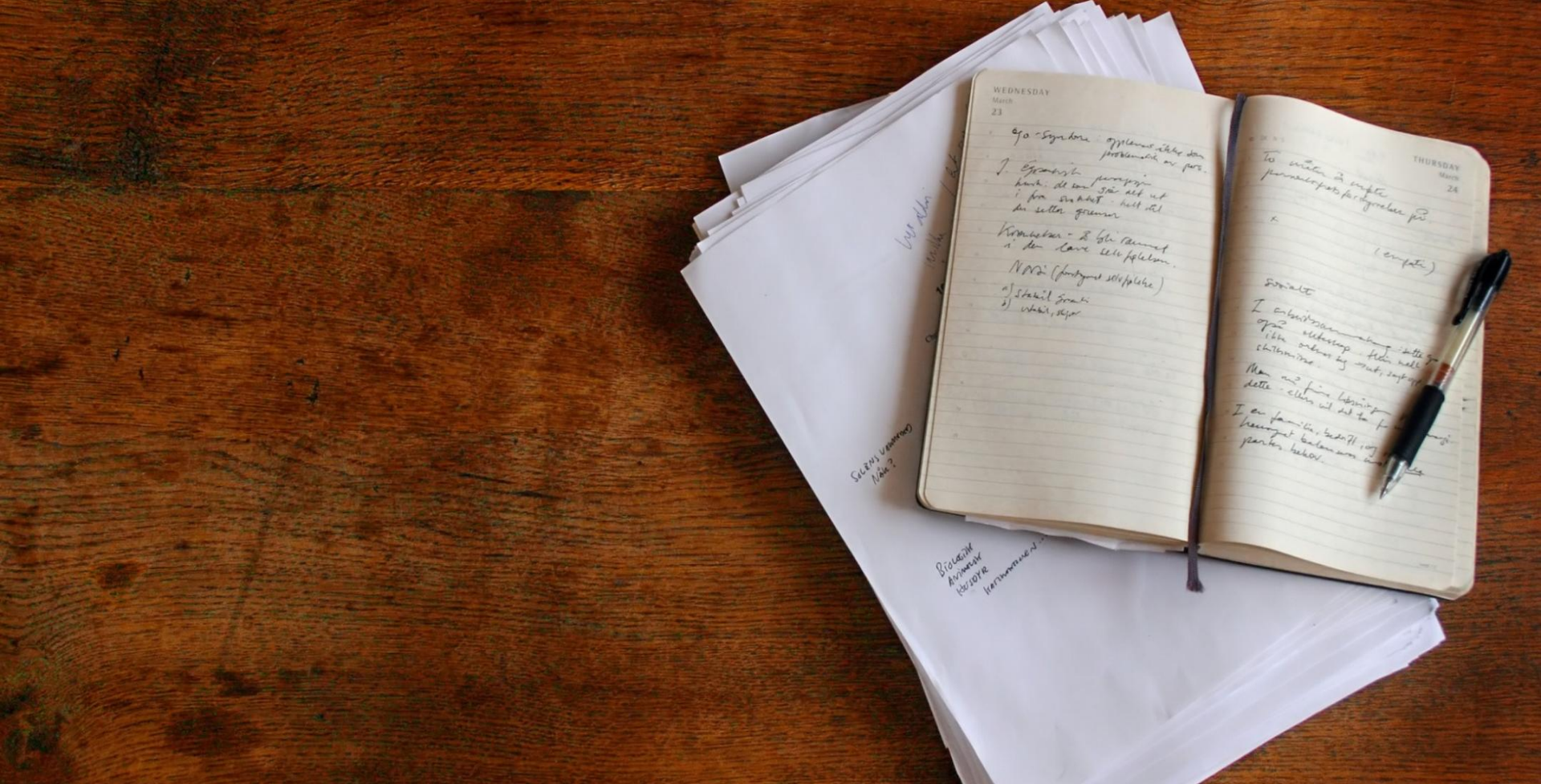
ACADEMIC LANGUAGE PROGRAMME (PART OF THE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES)

- feedback on (part of) written group assignment that's due in week 2

- feedback + pass/fail grade on final group report

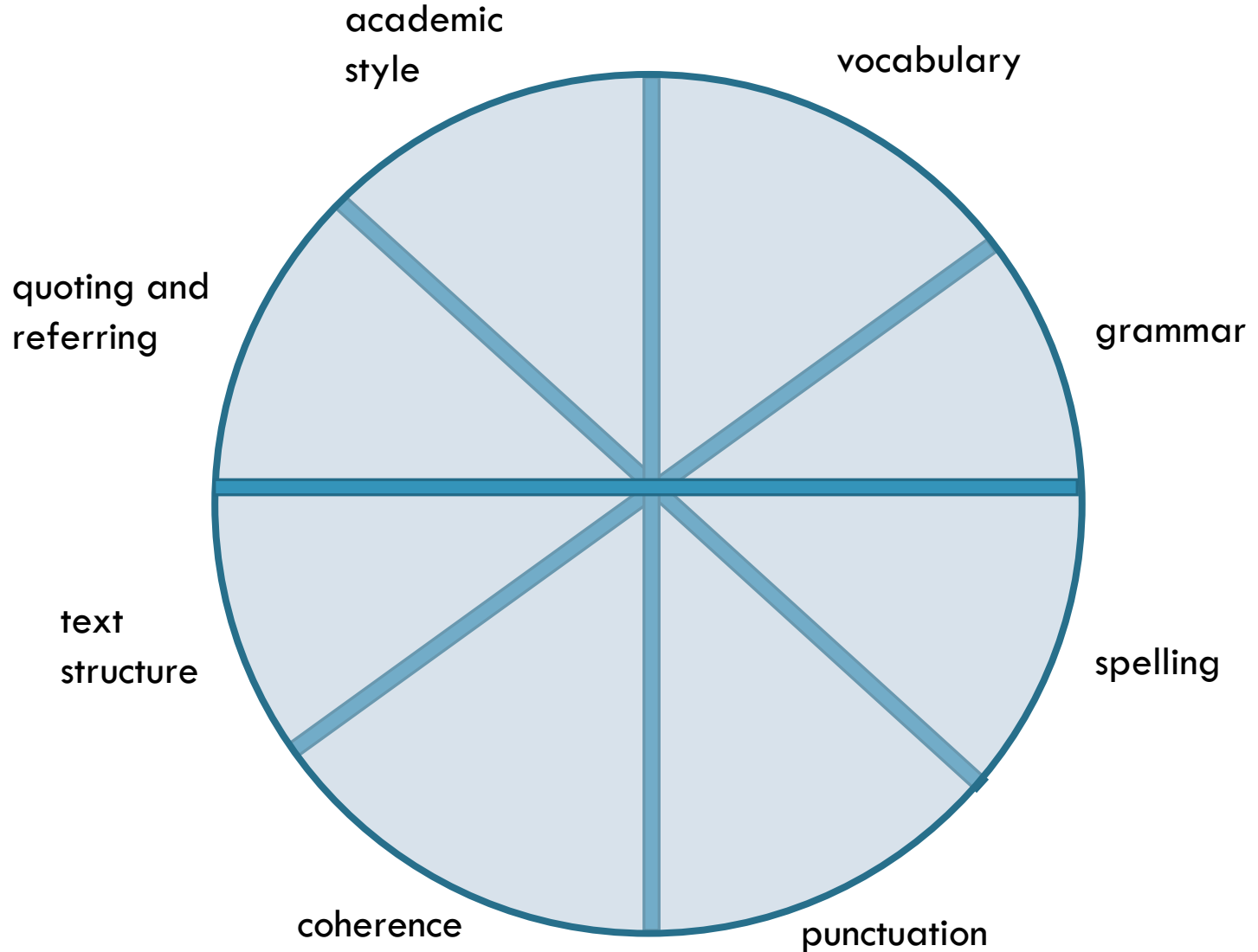
Check course manual how this grade will be part of the final grade for your report

- Presentation lecture with Abby Gambrel Thursday 19 June at 13:30

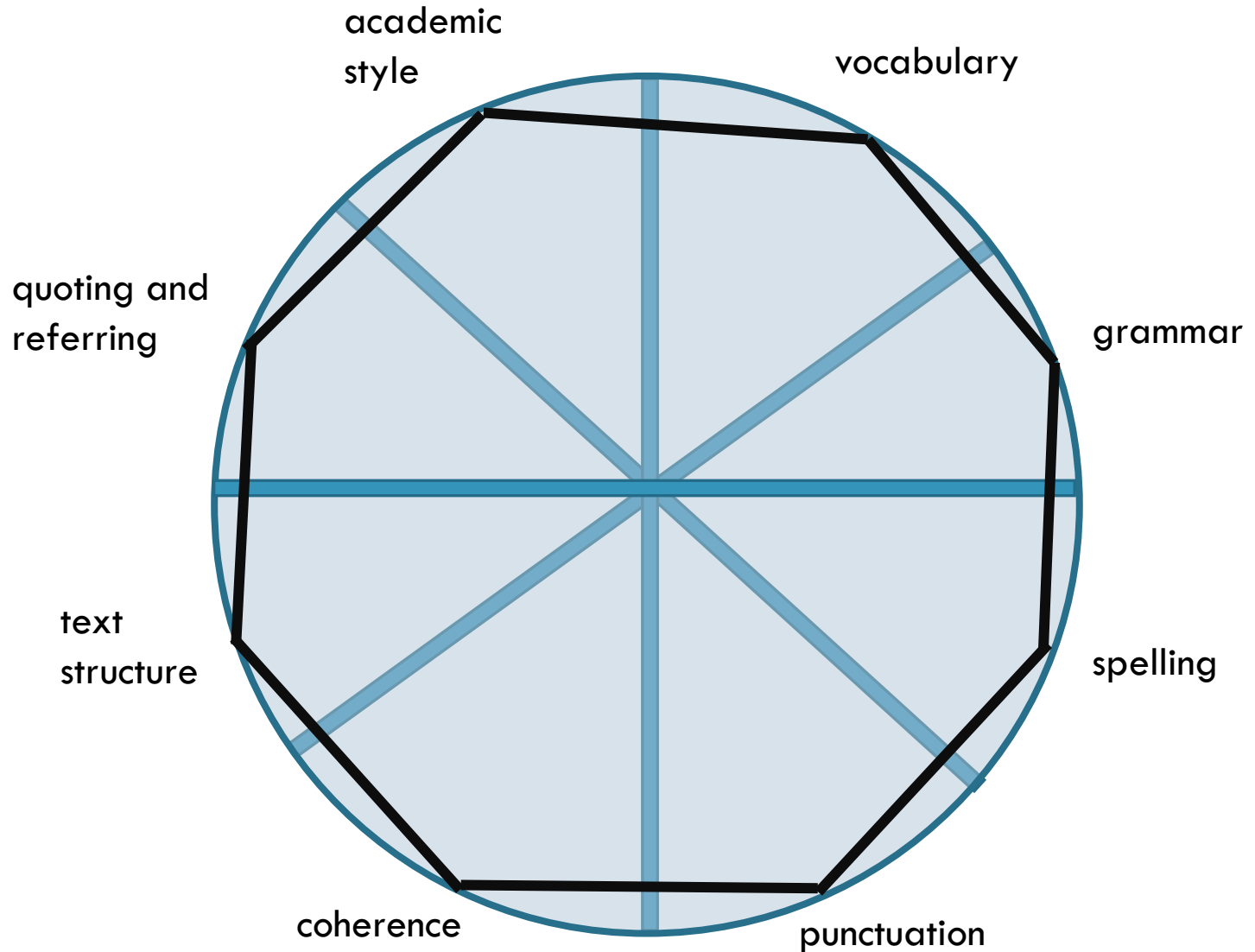


SKILLS PROFILE/WRITING PIE

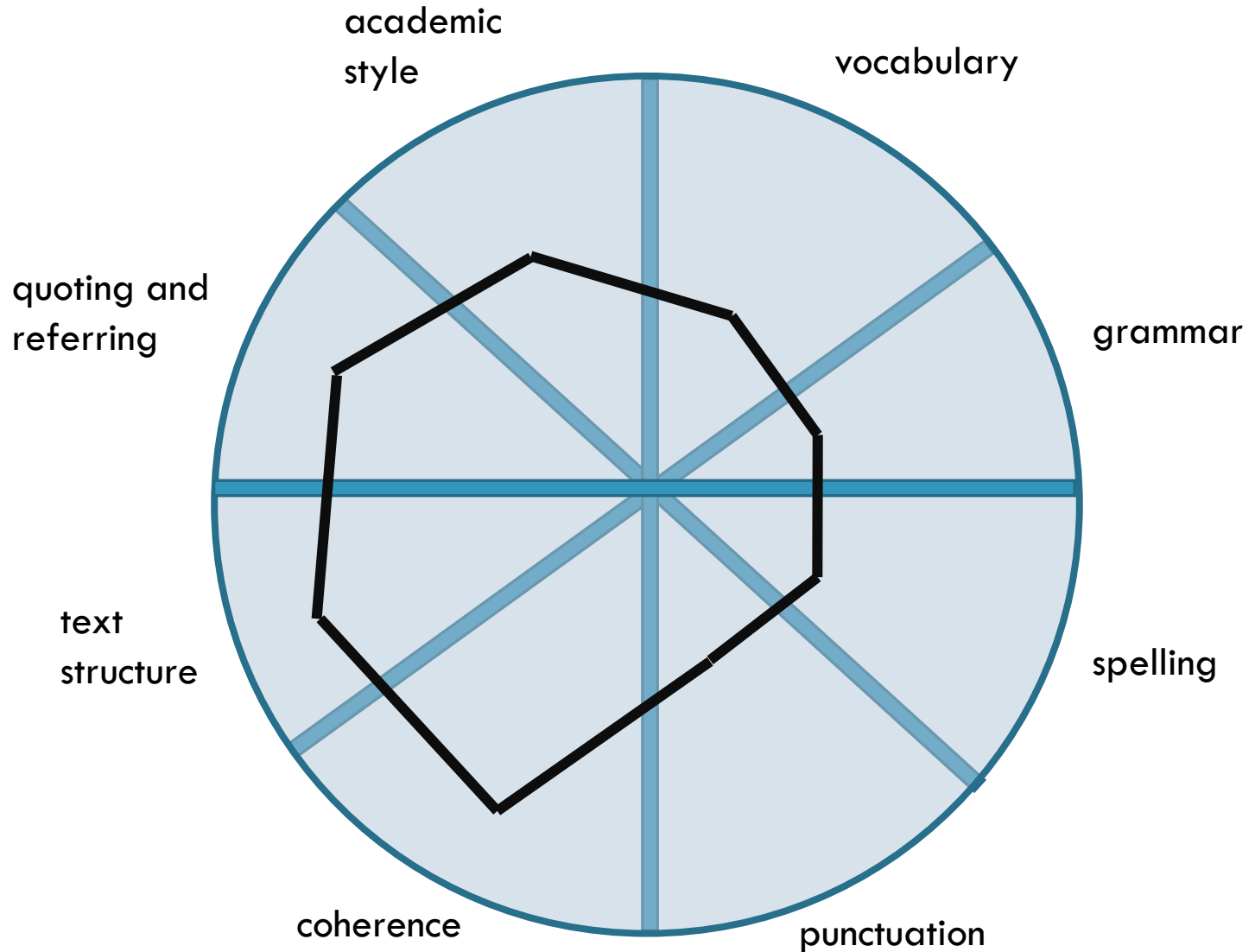
WRITING PIE FOR ACADEMIC WRITING SKILLS



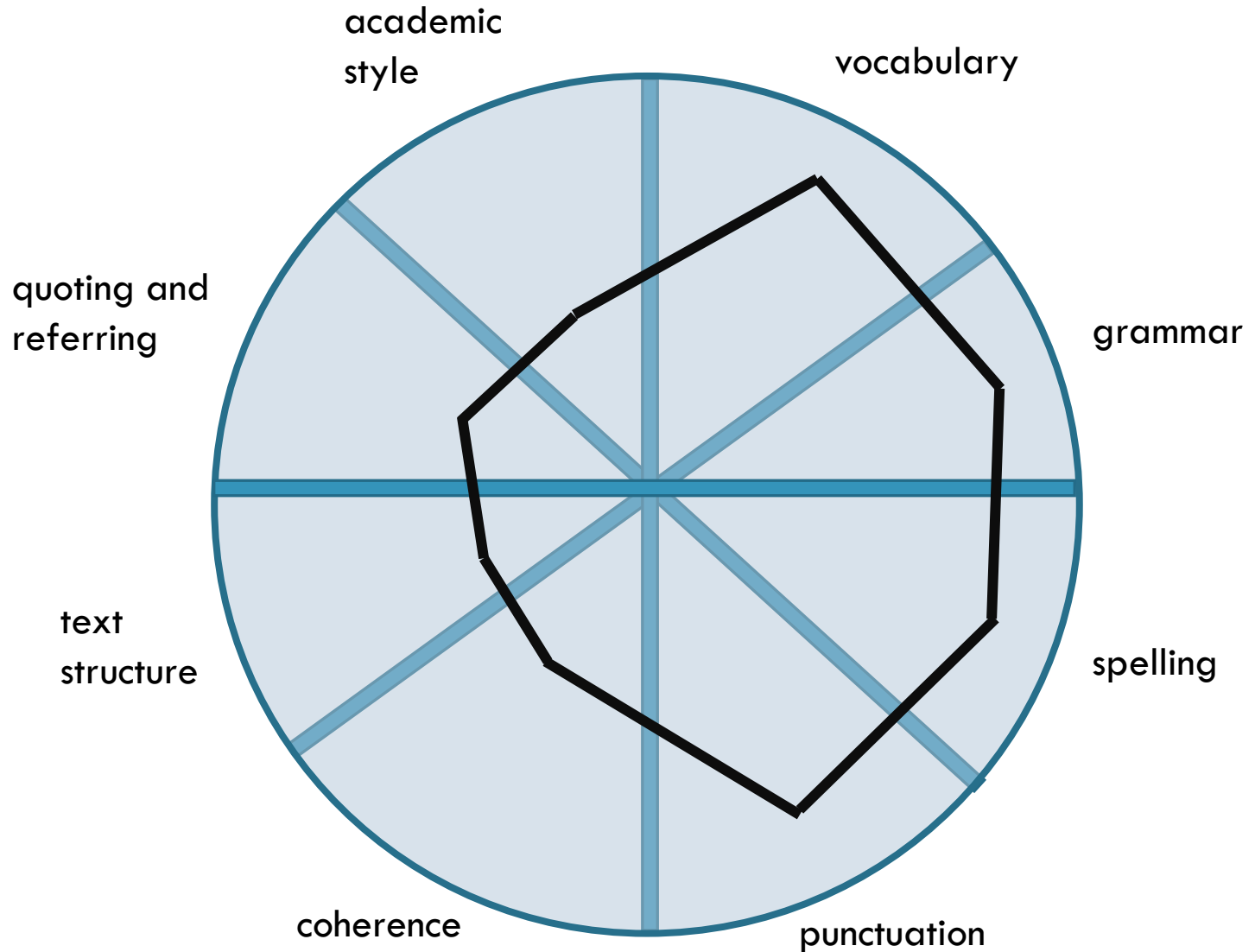
WRITING PIE: THE PERFECT SCORE 😊



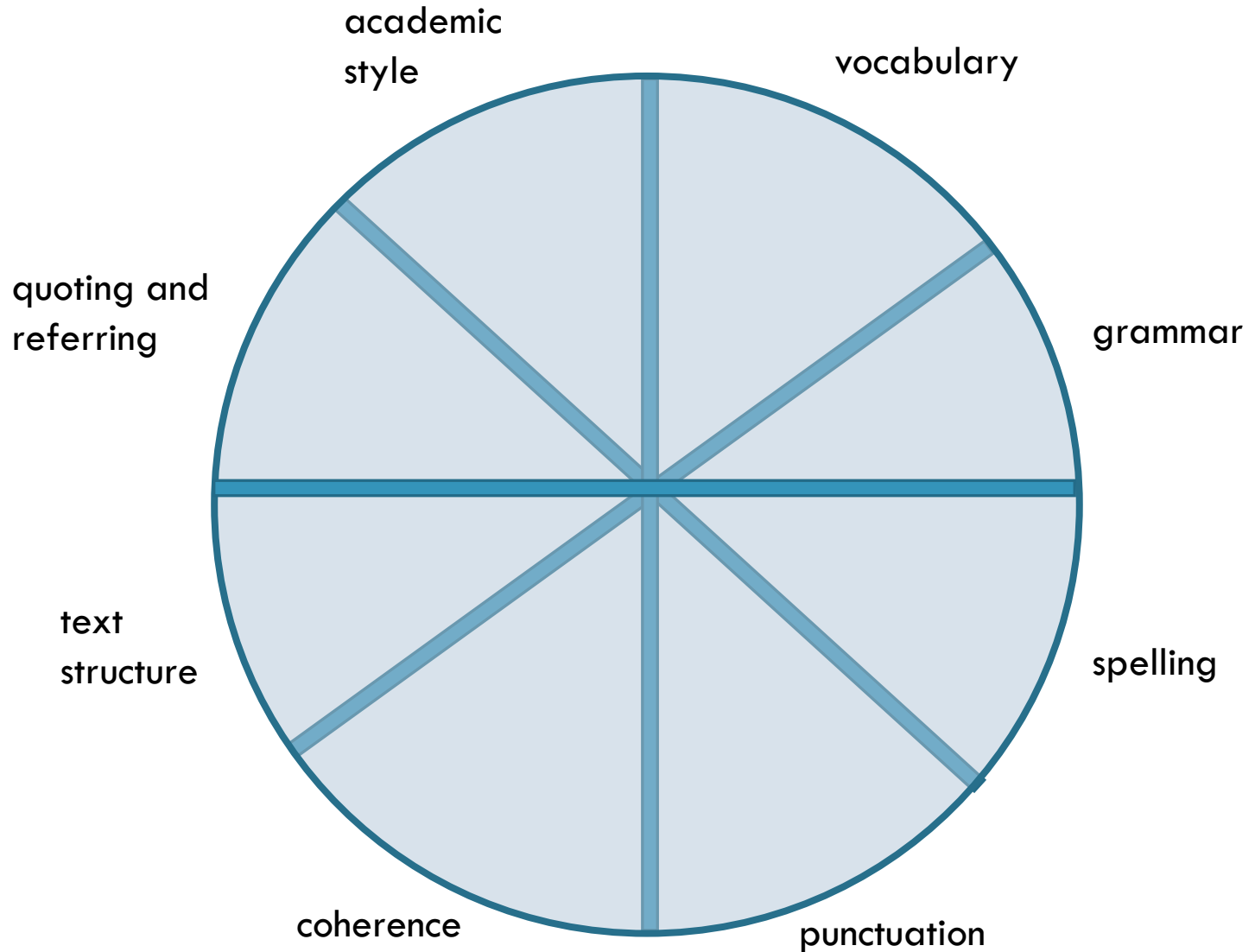
WRITING PIE: POSSIBLE SCORE



WRITING PIE: POSSIBLE SCORE



WRITING PIE: YOUR SCORE



EDITING

- Dedicate time to editing for language and coherence (at the end, or throughout the process)
- Revise in rounds: focus on specific topics each time
- Try to make the editing specific and 'objective':
 - ctrl+F for apostrophes
 - highlighting linking words
- You can use the writing pie to identify topics, but create your own list too, using the feedback on previous assignments
 - Do you often make mistakes with tense?
 - Do you get feedback that your text is 'messy'?
 - Do you often confuse they're/their?

1. DON'T USE 'YOU'

The convention in academic texts is not to address the reader.

You can see in Table 5 >

Table 5 shows/illustrates...

2. CHECK YOUR DISCIPLINE CONVENTIONS ABOUT 'WE' AND 'I'

Look for different types of uses of 'we'/'I'

We all know that
made

Humanity in general, can be
more specific usually

In chapter 3 we will discuss...
impersonal

'text management': generally
okay, but can also be
(*Chapter 3 discusses*)

In this paper, we aim to...

announcement of aims: can be
useful to highlight your
contribution

We used materials x
methods

active can be clearer in
than passive

3. CHECK YOUR TEXT FOR INFORMAL WORDS

a lot of, get, things, stuff, so

4. DON'T USE CONTRACTIONS

Check for apostrophes: *don't, doesn't, shouldn't*

Note:

- it's is short for *it is/it has*
- possessive form is *its (its properties)*
- possessive apostrophes are allowed: *Smith's proposal*

5. USE HEDGES APPROPRIATELY

The best solution is x.

The best solution may be x.

The best solution seems to be x.

It is clear that x is the best solution.

The results show that x is the best solution.

The results suggest that x is the best solution.

6. BE PRECISE

The organ bath was kept warm.

The organ bath was mounted in a water container (swirling set-up) that was kept at a constant temperature of 37°C by a thermostat.

7. CHECK STANDARD ACADEMIC PHRASES

[Academic Phrasebank | The University of Manchester](#)

“beyond the scope of this paper”

“a case-study approach was chosen to ensure...”

“Primary inclusion criteria for the participants were...”

“Selection bias is another potential concern because ...”

“However, these results were based upon data from over 30 years ago and it is unclear if ...”

8. CHECK NUMBERS

Remember: commas and points are not the same in English and Dutch.

3.141 = A bit more than three

3,141 = Three-thousand one-hundred forty-one

Check spelling of numbers in the text:

words vs numerals (one/1)



CREATING A CLEAR AND READER-FRIENDLY TEXT



1. REFERRING EXPRESSIONS

REFERRING EXPRESSIONS

antecedent

Maggie Gyllenhaal was told by a Hollywood producer

that she was too old, at 37, to play the love interest of a

55-year-old man, the Oscar-nominated actor has

revealed.

Referring
expressions

PROBLEMS

1. The purpose of this paper is to show what the dangers are of using the internet and network related gear, especially when we talk about potential violation of their privacy.
2. However, through lack of consideration, the tunnels were pointed in different directions and the diameters differed too much. Consequently the work was stopped. This lasted until 1930, when a new plan was put forward.
3. Therefore the career prospects of younger children are already influenced at a very early stage depending on the child's parents' income.
4. In the United Kingdom, Alcoholics Anonymous is an autonomous organization which has few links with the medical profession. Due to the limited links between the two organizations, many alcoholism professionals are not aware of the role which AA plays.

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4. In the United Kingdom, Alcoholics Anonymous is an autonomous organization which has few links with the medical profession. Due to the limited links between **the two organizations**, many alcoholism professionals are not aware of the role which AA plays.

ADVICE

- Search for 'this', 'it', 'they' in your text and check that they have a clear antecedent in the text.
- If you have 'this' without a following noun, check if you can add a noun to clarify the link (this situation, this problem, this solution, this process, this phenomenon)

A close-up photograph of three blue ceramic coffee cups on a light brown wooden table. The cup in the foreground is filled with dark coffee. The two cups in the background are slightly out of focus; one contains a lighter-colored coffee with a white liquid being poured into it. The word "BREAK" is centered in the middle of the image in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

BREAK



2. PARALLEL STRUCTURES |

BENEFITS OF PARALLELISM (1)

In a population in which the prevalence of an infection is low the frequency distribution of cases of different severity may be markedly different from that of a population in which the disease cases are frequent.

In population X the P may be different than in population Y [where X and Y have similarities and differences]

A population where the prevalence of an infection is low may reveal a P which is markedly different from a population where the prevalence of an infection is high.

PARALLELISM: EXAMPLES

Nouns

- *Her expression reflected BOTH anger AND relief.*

Adjectives

- *The park was NEITHER accessible NOR affordable.*

Verbs

- *The custodian cleaned the basement AND washed the windows.*

Infinitives

- *We would like NOT ONLY to hear your side of the story BUT ALSO to provide a response.*

PROBLEMATIC CASES

1. This model basically consists of four steps: question interpretation, retrieval of the attitude, rendering a judgment, and reporting an answer.
2. A link between Britain and the continent would be of great value for the development of transport and create employment.
3. As we are developing nuclear sources, we must equally begin to explore, research and develop other possible forms of energy. This can involve the utilization of solar energy and recycling existing waste materials, garbage and dung.

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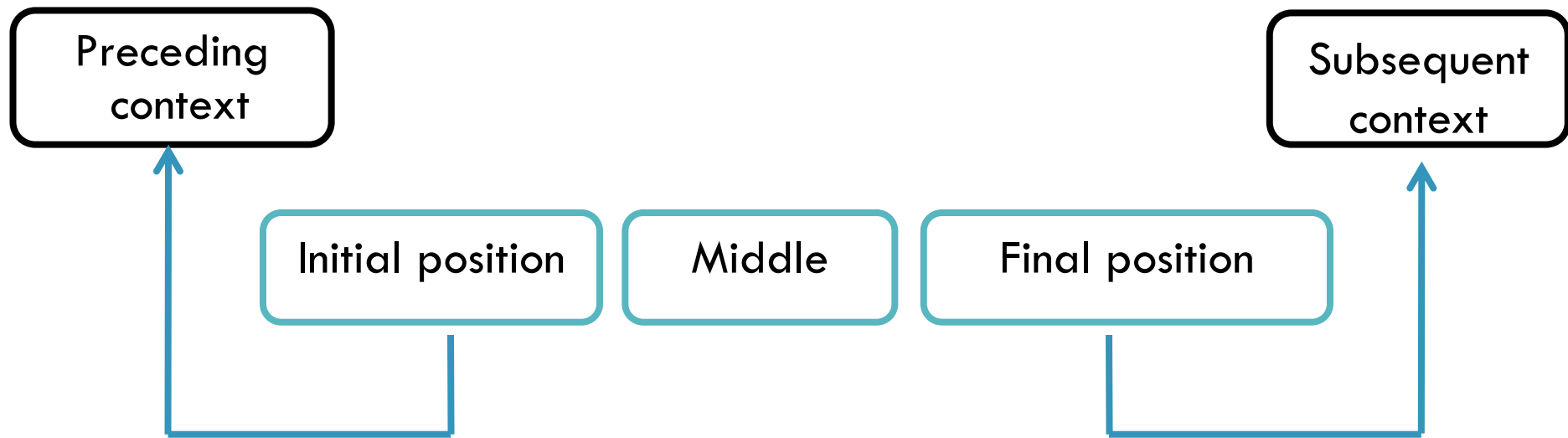
ADVICE

- Search for parallel markers in your text (lists, 'and', 'or')
- Check that it's clear which two parts are connected, and that those parts have the same structure and form.



4. INFORMATION ORDERING |

EFFECTIVE INFORMATION ORDERING IN THE SENTENCE



I saw a cat. It was chasing a mouse. The mouse was scared.

INEFFECTIVE ORDERING

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions have been greatly rising since the industrial revolution, causing the level of CO₂ to become dangerously high. Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) is a possible solution to this problem, which entails separating CO₂ from the air or industrial sources and injecting it into underground geologic reservoirs for permanent storage.

A (rise of CO₂)

B (CCS)

A (this problem)

B (a solution / which entails...)

IMPROVED

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions have been greatly rising since the industrial revolution, causing the level of CO₂ to become dangerously high. A possible solution to this problem is Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), which entails separating CO₂ from the air or industrial sources and injecting it into underground geologic reservoirs for permanent storage.

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B (which entails...)

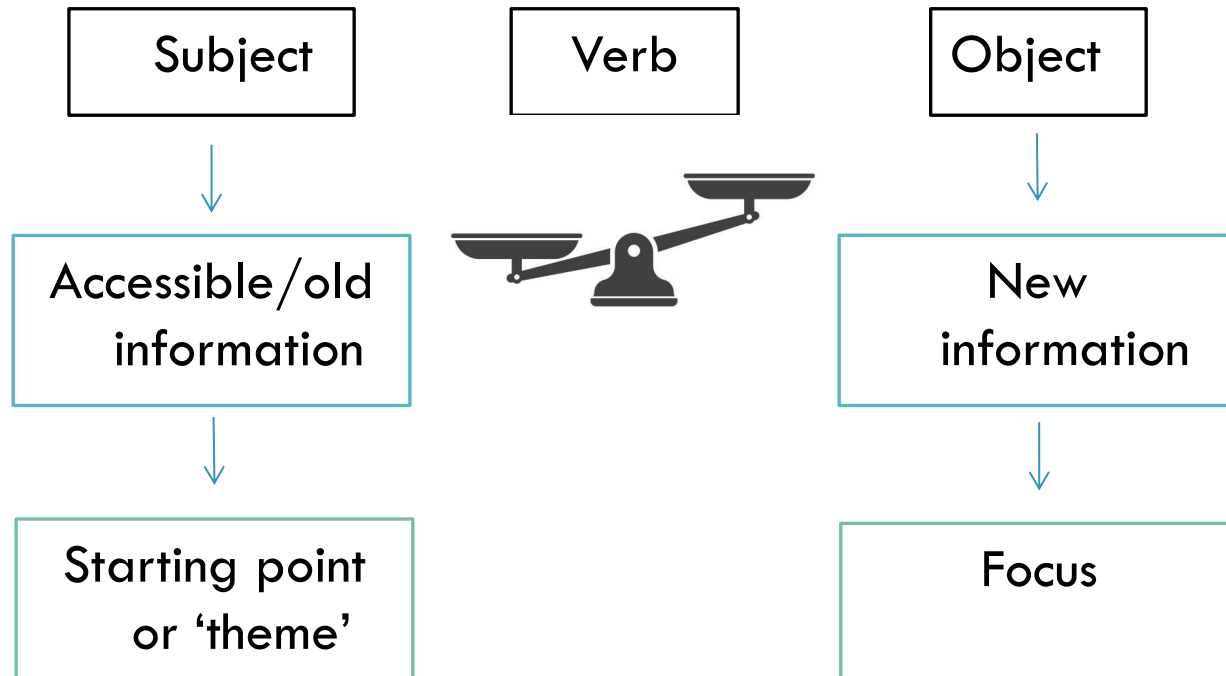
ADVICE

- Check that your sentences start with information that follows from the previous sentence
- Check that they end with information that leads to the next sentences
- If not, see if you can rearrange the sentence
- Tip: subjects tend to be short-ish (in easier-to-read sentences)
- Tip: new terms are usually introduced towards the end of the sentence

The background is a complex, abstract pattern in shades of teal and blue. It features a series of interconnected, fractal-like shapes that resemble organic growth or a microscopic view of a mineral. The patterns are dense and intricate, with many fine lines and curves. The overall effect is a sense of depth and complexity.

5. AVOID FRONTAL OVERLOAD

ENGLISH: WORD ORDER PRINCIPLES + INFORMATION ORDERING PRINCIPLES



Why are these sentences confusing?

The various reactions of brain cancer cells, including delayed effects, to drugs from subset A was examined.

From the stock solutions of all drugs used, dilution series ranging from 0.01 μM up to the maximal 0.1 nM were prepared.



They violate the Information Order Principle by placing too much new information before the verb.

The various reactions of brain cancer cells, including delayed effects, to drugs from subset A **was examined**.

From the stock solutions of all drugs used, dilution series ranging from 0.01 μM up to the maximal 0.1 nM **were prepared**.

Avoid “frontal overload”.

Old/accessible information

New/focal information

Verb

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

To achieve maximal contraction of the organ tissue, necessary for quantifying the tested pharmacodynamic effect of the test drug, 1mL of noradrenaline (NA) **was added** to the Vas Deferens using a syringe. (Somewhat confusing)



1) Using a syringe, 1mL of noradrenaline (NA) **was added** to the Vas Deferens in order achieve maximal contraction of the organ tissue, necessary for quantifying the tested pharmacodynamic effect of the test drug. (Move verb earlier and new/focal information later.)

2) Using a syringe, **we added** 1mL of noradrenaline (NA) to the Vas Deferens in order achieve maximal contraction of the organ tissue, necessary for quantifying the tested pharmacodynamic effect of the test drug. (Use “we”—only valid with multiple experimenters.)

ANOTHER SOLUTION

Using multiple regression analysis, serum creatinine as the sole independent predictor of serum sulfite levels **was found**. (Somewhat confusing)



Multiple regression analysis **revealed** serum creatinine as the sole independent predictor of serum sulfite levels.

ANTHROPOMORPHISM??

The table presents information on the demographics of this study.

These data demonstrated that increasing awareness of diabetes indicators can help patients reduce their risk of being diagnosed.

The theory indicates that societies work much like ecological systems, with different groups playing different and necessary roles in the larger system.

The results showed a relationship between time spent in the intervention program and student standardized test scores.

<https://www.enago.com/academy/anthropomorphism-in-academic-writing/>

Mostly acceptable in academic writing. Check style guides for specific cases.

ADVICE

- Check where the verb is in the sentence
- Ideally, we get to the verb quite quickly (to understand what sentence we have).
- If that's not the case, consider rearranging



3. SIGNALLING LANGUAGE

Linking Words

LINKING WORDS REPERTOIRE

ADDITION

- > in addition (to)
- > in comparison
- > similarly
- > likewise
- > moreover
- > furthermore
- > above all
- > on top of that

SUMMARY

- > overall
- > finally
- > thus
- > therefore
- > in conclusion
- > consequently
- > as a result
- > to sum up

CONTRAST

- > although/even though
- > despite/in spite of
- > nevertheless
- > comparatively
- > conversely
- > meanwhile/while
- > however
- > whereas
- > having said that
- > still

STARTERS

- > for a start
- > first of all
- > in the first place
- > for one thing

GENERALIZATIONS

- > broadly speaking
- > generally speaking
- > on the whole
- > by the large
- > to some/a certain/
large extent

REINFORCEMENT

- > above all
- > accordingly
- > notably
- > in fact
- > actually

ADDING VARIATION: USE OF ADJECTIVES

- Addition: *additional, added, extra, further, supplementary*
 - An **added** difficulty is that musicians, trained in the classical repertoire, often resist performances of modern pieces.
 - **Another** reason to learn English is that it is the second language in the world.

Contrast: *opposite, reverse, contrary, converse*

- The **opposite** argument is presented by Smith.
- The **reverse** situation exists for PLA composites.

ADDING VARIATION: PARTIAL REPETITION

The French language ultimately derives from the Latin of the invading armies that occupied Gaul in the early years of the Christian era. *As well as being a Latin-based language*, French has many words that have been borrowed from the Gauls' Germanic neighbours.

STEP 2, ADDING VARIATION: STANDARD PHRASES

The consequence is that ...

This resulted in ...

This implies/means that ...

The conclusion must be that ...

SENTENCE STRUCTURE & LENGTH

1. Public opinion has long been recognized by politicians and governments as highly significant in the political process.
However, it is in fact a rather vague concept. (*main clause + main clause*)
2. Public opinion has long been recognized by politicians and governments as highly significant in the political process **but** it is in fact a rather vague concept. (*main clause + main clause*)
3. Public opinion has long been recognized by politicians and governments as highly significant in the political process,
although it is in fact a rather vague concept. (*main clause + subclause*)

ADVICE

- Work on your linking words repertoire (find examples, check that you know the meaning + connotations)
- Add variation in linking words
- Look beyond linking words, especially for transitions between paragraphs:
 - Adjectives
 - Longer linking phrases
- Use a variety of sentence structures for better 'flow'



EDITING & REVISION

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ELS ONLINE

English Language Support-Online

Log in using Vu-Net ID

Grammar and writing topics

- Explanation of common mistakes
- Exercises

WRITING PIE: RESOURCES

ELS-online

Google for 'Manchester Academic Phrasebank'

Google for 'exercises with Academic Word List' or check

AWL: <https://emedia.rmit.edu.au/learninglab/content/academic-word-list-tool>

Dictionaries

BrE: <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com>

AmE: www.merriam-webster.com

Thesaurus: www.thesaurus.com

Collocations dictionary: www.freecollocation.com

**academic
style**

vocabulary

grammar

ELS-online
Grammarly (but use
with care)

spelling

Word
Dictionary
Good journals in your field
Referencing style guide
Grammarly (but use with
care)

punctuation

ELS-online
Grammarly (but use with
care)

coherence

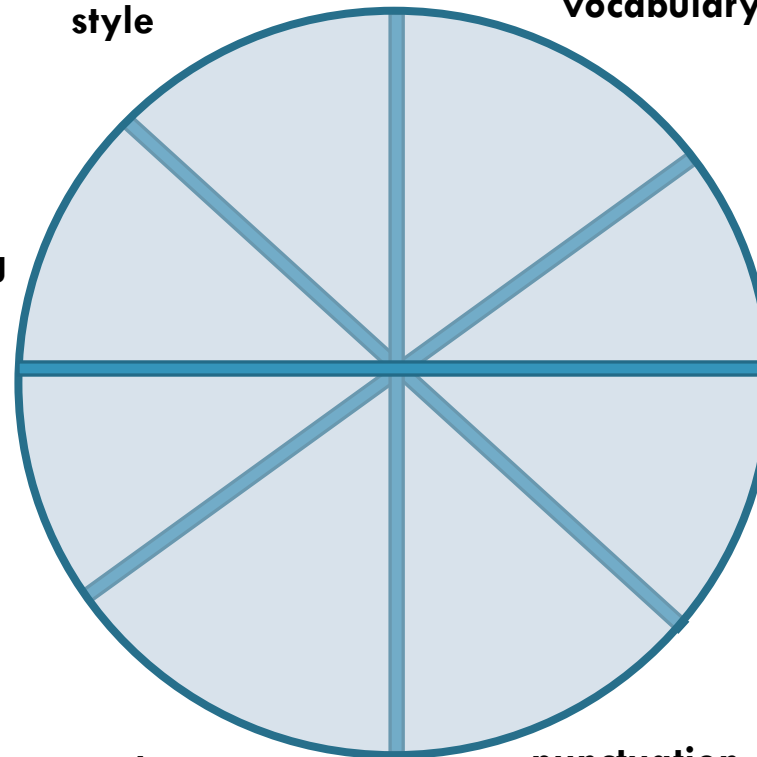
ELS-online
Course materials (esp. slides
on 'editing for...')

**text
structure**

ELS-online
Any materials from previous
writing courses

**quoting
and
referring**

Referencing style guide
Instructions from content
teachers/earlier courses
ELS-online



GOOD LUCK!

