# COMP6238

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# Lecture update

- Week 2: Writing - Introduction
- Week 3: Academic Integrity
- Week 4: Library resources and searching
- Week 5: Research - Introduction

Website for COMP6238 and ELEC6211 will be updated on the NOTES pages to include material

# Resources

There are online lectures available covering aspects of technical writing.

***Online Lecture 1: Technical Writing - Overview***

This online lecture provides an overview of technical writing. It is broken down into three short ~20 minute videos, and you should watch each one in turn. Click on each image to watch the video.

https://secure.ecs.soton.ac.uk/notes/ellabs/1/l12/

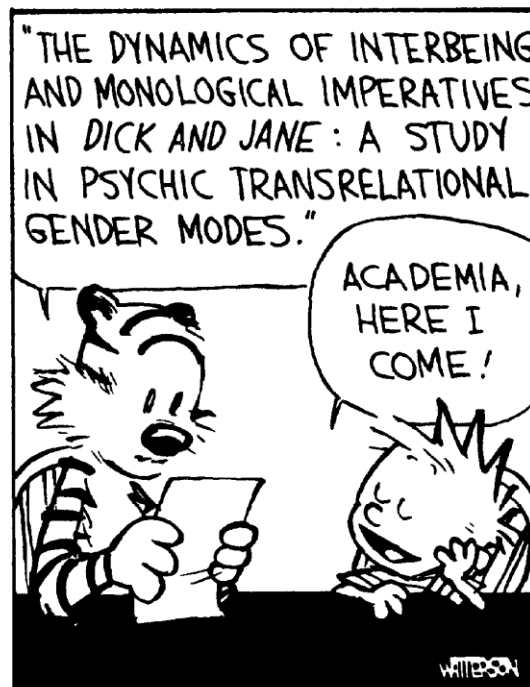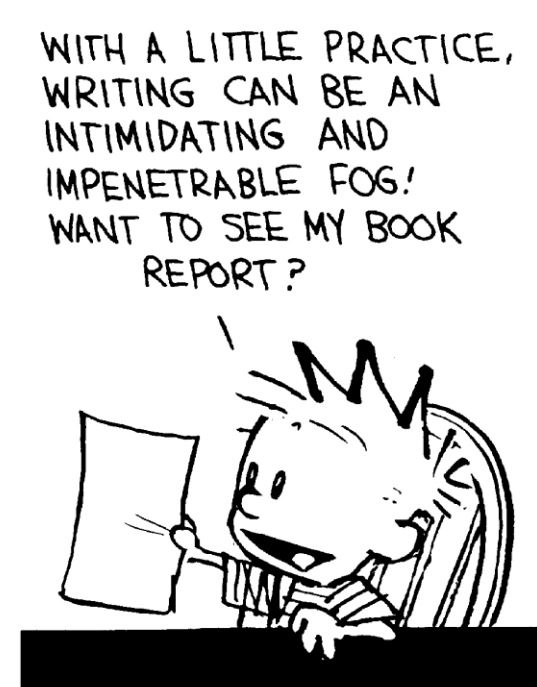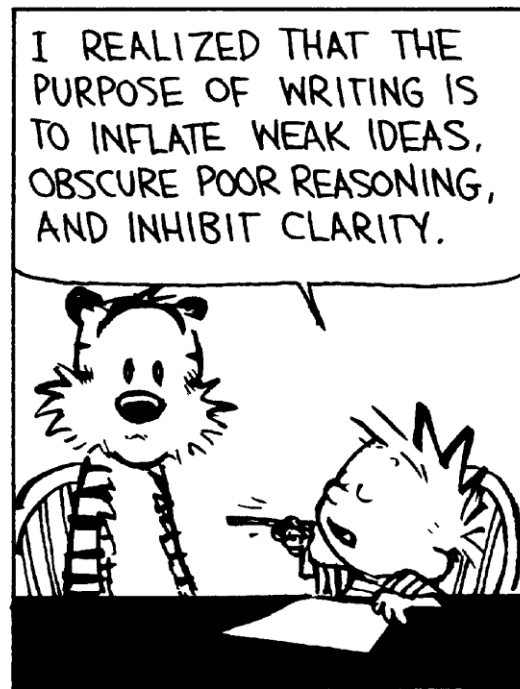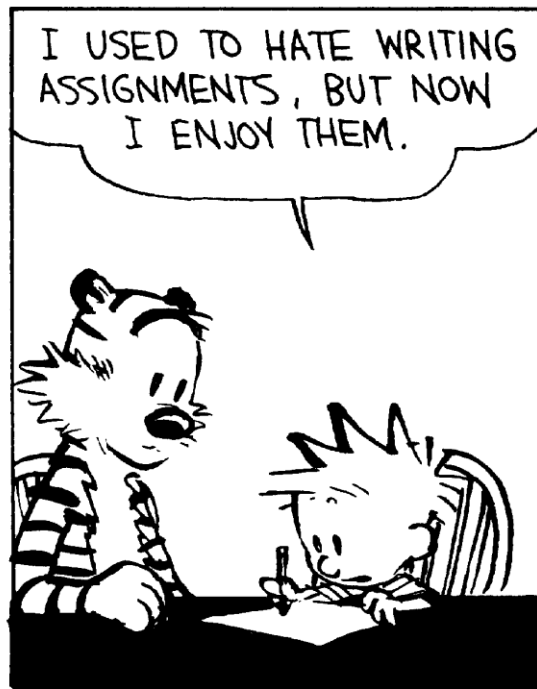***Online Lecture 2: Technical Writing - Structure***

This online lecture provides a more in-depth look at the different sections of a technical document. It is broken down into short videos (totalling just over 1 hour), and you should watch each one.

https://secure.ecs.soton.ac.uk/notes/ellabs/1/l13/

# Information resources

Coming in from SECURE directly, through "course resources" and "first year labs": https://secure.ecs.soton.ac.uk/notes/ellabs/1

| Stream 3 - Research and Communication | | | "X" Labs (+ Lectures & Assignments) |
|---|---|---|---|
| ID | Title | Format | Assessment Module |
| L10 | Becoming a Professional Engineer | Physical Lecture | |
| L11 | Time, Project and Team Management | Online Lecture | |
| **L12** | **Technical Writing - Introduction** | Online Lecture | |
| **L13** | **Technical Writing - Structure** | Online Lecture | |
| L14 | Technical Writing - Discussion | Physical Lecture | |
| L15 | Technical Writing - Discussion 2 | Physical Lecture | |
| L16 | Academic Integrity | Physical Lecture | |
| L17 | Giving Effective Oral Presentations | Online Lecture | |
| L18 | Professional Ethics | Physical Lecture | |
| L19 | Health, Safety and Environmental Legislation | Online Lecture | |
| L20 | Entrepreneurship 1 | Online Lecture | |
| L21 | Entrepreneurship 2 | Online Lecture | |

**3 Lectures:**

Part 1: Introduction
Part 2: Structure
Part 3: Formatting

**7 Lectures:**

The Abstract
The Introduction
Background and Theory
Experimental Design
**Results**
**Discussion**
Conclusions

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# Clarity is key!

What is the point of writing text that is difficult to read?

Do complicated words or jargon help the explanation or do they confuse?

How do you structure sentences? Or paragraphs? Or sections?

# Precision

A technical report is not poetry or a story.

You do not get marks for creative use of English. You get marks for clear explanations.

Use the correct meaning of words – not the Internet.

Example:

<div align="center">

Calculate vs Compute

Made vs Realise

Use vs Utilise

</div>

# Detailed and careful

# Writing == Research

Attention to detail!

Can you convince a reader/examiner that you constructed a valid and exploratory set of parameters (attention to detail and clear understanding), and then performed the experiment well (careful attention to detail), reliably and reproducibly if there is no attention to detail in the report.

If you can't explain it clearly is it because you rushed the report or because you do not understand it.

This last point is a good one to think about when reading published papers.

# Long documents are inherently complicated

How do you construct a long document?

Does the structure matter?

What exactly are you trying to say and how do you layer the information required to UNDERSTAND it?

From the perspective of being a student – academic exercises frequently try to assess your knowledge and understanding…

How is this related to an examiner reading your work and marking it?

It depends whether or not they UNDERSTAND what you have written…

**Introduction**
- What am I going to prove?
- Why does this matter?

**Background**
- Setting the scene
- Underlying information

**Methods**
- How am I going to measure it?
- How am I going to prove it?

**Results**
- What did I find?
- Let me describe the best bits

**Discussion/Analysis**
- Here's my analysis and proof of it
- Here's my conclusion(s) about it

**Conclusions**
- Let me summarise my conclusions about it
- And let me state the value of them

# Aims
# Objectives

**The writing narrative – text and sub-text**