

MY410 Week 5 Seminar

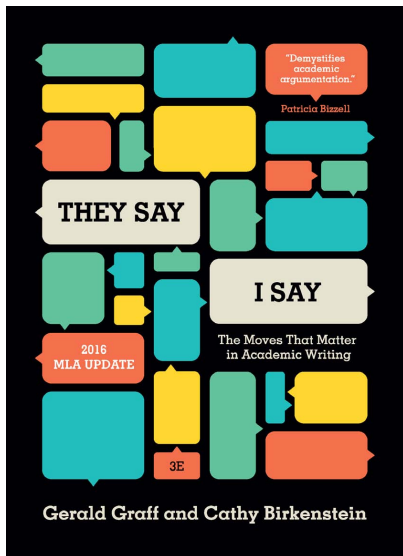
Chao-Yo Cheng

What we have done so far

- ▶ How to formulate research question(s).
- ▶ How theory and data (both quantitative and qualitative) speak to each other. For instance,
 - You can use your observations to *evaluate* a theory (i.e., generate empirical implications based on the theory and test them with your observations).
 - You can use your observations to *challenge* a theory.
 - You can use your observations to *develop* a theory.
- ▶ How to ensure rigor in research: Question-theory-empirics alignment and bias management (etc).

Aims for this week

- ▶ Develop your ideas for your topic, literature and research question for your formative assignment (and eventually your summative assignments perhaps) through discussion and feedback from your peers.
- ▶ Develop your skills in articulating a good literature review and research question by providing feedback on your peers' plans.
- ▶ Develop your skills in identifying and articulating methodological critiques (identifying limitations) of different research designs.



BRIEF CONTENTS

PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION xiii

PREFACE: Demystifying Academic Conversation xvi

INTRODUCTION: Entering the Conversation 1

PART 1. "THEY SAY"

1 "THEY SAY": Starting with What Others Are Saying 19

2 "HER POINT IS": The Art of Summarizing 30

3 "AS HE HIMSELF PUTS IT": The Art of Quoting 42

PART 2. "I SAY"

4 "YES / NO / OKAY, BUT": Three Ways to Respond 55

5 "AND YET": Distinguishing What You Say from What They Say 68

6 "SKEPTICS MAY OBJECT": Planting a Naysayer in Your Text 78

7 "SO WHAT? WHO CARES?": Saying Why It Matters 92

PART 3. TYING IT ALL TOGETHER

8 "AS A RESULT": Connecting the Parts 105

9 "AIN'T SO / IS NOT": Academic Writing Doesn't Always Mean Setting Aside Your Own Voice 121

10 "BUT DON'T GET ME WRONG": The Art of Metacommentary 129

11 "HE SAYS CONTENTS": Using the Templates to Revise 139

PART 4. IN SPECIFIC ACADEMIC CONTEXTS

12 "I TAKE YOUR POINT": Entering Class Discussions 163

13 "IMHO": Is Digital Communication Good or Bad—or Both? 167

14 "WHAT'S MOTIVATING THIS WRITER?": Reading for the Conversation 173

15 "ON CLOSER EXAMINATION": Entering Conversations about Literature 184

16 "THE DATA SUGGEST": Writing in the Sciences 202

17 "ANALYZE THIS": Writing in the Social Sciences 221

READINGS 239

INDEX OF TEMPLATES 293

The formative assignment

- ▶ Main task: Building a research question from a literature review.
- ▶ Format: 1 page (max 500 words), incorporating:
 - References for 3 related, **empirical** articles
 - 1 paragraph introducing the topic
 - 1 paragraph outlining and critiquing the research designs, setting the background for:
 - A research question
- ▶ Due: 4pm Thursday 4 November 2021 (MT week 6)
- ▶ Full instructions on Moodle (<https://moodle.lse.ac.uk/>)

Feedback will be provided based on

- ▶ The scope of the topic – is it too broad, or just about right?
- ▶ The selection of articles – are they appropriate for the annotated bibliography?
- ▶ Your preliminary assessment/critique of the pieces and their research designs
- ▶ Your research question
- ▶ General style, prose

From articles to question(s)

As you scope the literature, you may notice that a particular research design may have one or more of the following elements:

- ▶ Tensions or contradictions between the papers;
- ▶ Extension to new context (e.g., different region, time period);
- ▶ Different theoretical perspective;
- ▶ Different methodological approach (e.g., build on more inductive work to propose some hypothesis-testing deductive approach);
- ▶ Something left unexplored (e.g., critical element not engaged with, need to consider other conditions);
- ▶ Something left untested.

Peer feedback activity

- ▶ Phase 1: Discuss your drafts in pairs
 - Exchange your written plans with your neighbor(s).
 - Read over your peers' plans, note questions/ constructive feedback.
 - Verbally explain your plan to your peer; peer asks questions and gives feedback.
 - Switch!
- ▶ Phase 2: Present in groups
 - Join up into groups.
 - Building on the feedback you've received, present your plan.
 - Select a plan for plenary discussion.
- ▶ Phase 3: Plenary discussion – discuss the topic, the research question, the most useful feedback, and remaining uncertainties, etc.

Peer feedback activity

- ▶ The topic
 - Is it clear what common topic is being addressed?
 - Is there a specific focus – or is the topic very broad or vaguely defined?
- ▶ Research design(s)
 - Are the research designs identified?
 - Are limitations of the approach appropriately identified?
 - Is there methodological diversity or not? (and what are the implications?)
- ▶ Research question(s)
 - Does the question identify a specific setting/case/location/group?
 - Does the question speak to a social science concern?
 - Is the question sufficiently clear to be feasible and tractable?