

## Class Notes and Homework

English 105i, Day #08:

\* "If you don't have time to read, you don't have the time (or the tools) to write. Simple as that."

--Stephen King

Write. Rewrite. When not writing or rewriting, read. I know of no shortcuts."

—Larry L. King

### 1. Attendance:

#### 1. How did midterms go?

- **Summer Internship Discussion:**
- "Sunday Session": New Schedule:  
[http://www.bradleyhammer.com/105i/lectures/sunday\\_schedule-sp25.pdf](http://www.bradleyhammer.com/105i/lectures/sunday_schedule-sp25.pdf)

#### 2. Who is ready to move on from the pretests?

- a. **Question:** Now that I can see many of the issues with my paper -- **How do I fix my writing?**

**Answer:** Follow the STEPS below, this is where it starts to get REALLY hard—WAY before it gets easy...

### **The Steps for writing a college paper:**

**Step 1:** Think of writing as a journey of discovery- not the collection of discrete data points "Googled" to reaffirm belief. Consequently, accept the reality that **UNC level work requires you to actually READ**. Does "the google" have good info for you to read? How does the algorithm respond to your queries? Instead of Googling, use the subscription-based search engines on [the UNC library site](#):

3. **Step 2:** Before you recklessly claim a "thesis belief", start your reading process by setting up an opportunity for **real discovery** by crafting a **posit** (i.e., a non-rhetorical question) with 2 (and only 2 defined variables).
- i. E.g., What, if any, causal relationship exists between marijuana use (x) and addiction (y). These become your x/y "bookends" for your **roadmap of discovery** and **possibility** (i.e., intro concept).
  - b. **When you posit, it should not only be "simple (like with the marijuana example above) but "foundational". So, as you build a posit, constantly ask yourself, "what do I have to assume to ask this question?"**
    - i. In the marijuana example, who can see the assumption(s) in, "What, if any, causal relationship exists between marijuana use (x) and addiction (y)".
      - a. Once you find these assumptions, go back and form a new, more foundational question.
      - i. E.g., In the posit above I assume a specific and/or definite process for marijuana metabolism in humans – how else would it ever have an "addictive potential" so, I need to reframe my question to get a something more **axiomatic**. This might be,

“Through what, if any, biochemical processes is marijuana metabolized into the human body?”

### Example:

**The Thesis** (i.e., **The assertion of an absolute ANSWER**): “Gun ownership increases the probability of premature death.” Yeah, perhaps it could, maybe? But **always**, probably not and, HOW exactly? The thesis addresses NONE of these academic concerns.

**The Posit**: (Proffers a Non-rhetorical **Question**): “**What, if any, causal relationship exists between gun storage and statistically significant deltas in child death rates in the US**”. This narrowed question sets the writer on an intellectual journey of discovery to find what, **if any**, intro-concept links **their two variables** -- **BEFORE** they write.

**Discussion** How is a posit different from a thesis? Q vs. A: [http://www.bradleyhammer.com/105i/what\\_is\\_a\\_posit.pdf](http://www.bradleyhammer.com/105i/what_is_a_posit.pdf)

### Homework #1: Get into a group of 3-4 students

1. **Homework #1**: You'll need to become a MUCH stronger reader before you begin this unit on writing. So, start with Dr. Hammer's book chapter on **How to Read**. Read the chapter WITH your group and complete the following assignments: (a-i) listed below. Either use [this link](#) or come by my office and grab a copy of the book. Your group members can divide up the assignments (a-i) below if you each teach other what you learned.

- a. Assignment on page 20: Titled -- “Practice Close Reading”
- b. Assignment on page 21-22: Titled -- “Explore the Elements
- c. Assignment #1 on page #23: Titled -- “Explore the Elements
- d. Assignment #2 on page #23: Titled -- “Explore the Elements – do ONLY #1 “academic-setting assignment”
- e. Assignment on page 24: Titled -- “Explore the Elements”
- f. Assignment on page 25: Titled -- “Explore the Elements”
- g. Assignment on page 31-32: Titled -- “Explore the Elements”
- h. Assignment on page 32: Titled -- “Collaborate to Learn” (step #1 ONLY)
- i. Assignment on page 34: Titled -- “Explore the Elements”

### Homework #2: Pick a new research topic that actually interests you. Here are some ideas:

[http://www.bradleyhammer.com/105i/new\\_paper\\_topics.pdf](http://www.bradleyhammer.com/105i/new_paper_topics.pdf) -- After you pick a topic, start with the simple readings I offer from the links provided BEFORE you go to **the library website**: <https://guides.lib.unc.edu/sb.php>

- Establish a **non-rhetorical** and **variables-defined** **posit** --
  - Old Student (Savannah's) Example: [http://www.bradleyhammer.com/105i/posit\\_student\\_ex.pdf](http://www.bradleyhammer.com/105i/posit_student_ex.pdf)
- Do your homework EXACTLY like Savannah's example. Be sure to **collect your nomenclature list** and **Intro concept** as you read. You are NOT done reading until you've secured these elements and DEFINED your 2 variables in your posit.
- Read broadly in relationship to your variables—start with my links and **feel free to use Wikipedia** as well before you go to harder readings on the library site (I'll explain why **Wikipedia** is an ok start next week)
- As you read, alter your posit like **Savannah's example** to fit the “if any” reality that you uncover (write down the changing evolution of each posit) – See **Savannah's Example Again**: [http://www.bradleyhammer.com/105i/posit\\_student\\_ex.pdf](http://www.bradleyhammer.com/105i/posit_student_ex.pdf)
- Learn all the **nomenclature** that surrounds your term. Make a “**nomenclature list**” with **YOUR** definitions by reading extensively on this terminology : By having a nomenclature list BEFORE you write, you'll understand your reading MUCH better and avoid plagiarism. **Savannah's Example Again**: [http://www.bradleyhammer.com/105i/posit\\_student\\_ex.pdf](http://www.bradleyhammer.com/105i/posit_student_ex.pdf)
- Finalize your posit (**Be sure to have fully revised by next class**). Bring your final posit to class and **put it on the board** when you come in 5 minutes before class.

Homework #3. Optional (no bonus) but good learning experience -- Look at your classmates' midterms!!