

# NURS 303: Scholarly Writing & Reflection

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WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM



**UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA**  
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## Class Presentation Slides

### Presentations for Students

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[How to Write a Thesis Statement: Religion 274 \(PDF\)](#)

[Examining the Term Paper: PERLS 204 \(PDF\)](#)

[Science, Technology, Society 200: The Short Essay \(PDF\)](#)

[Nursing 494: The Annotated Bibliography Scholarly Paper \(PDF\)](#)

[Human Ecology 201: The Research Essay \(PDF\)](#)

[Biology 107: The Scholarly Essay \(PDF\)](#)

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[Nursing 306: The Scholarly Paper \(PDF\)](#)

[Evaluating Writing in History and Classics Courses \(PDF\)](#)

[Sample Rubric Handout \(PDF\)](#)



# The Writing *Process*

## Getting started

- Explore the assignment
- Make rough notes
- Pick a tentative topic



## Drafting/revising

- Get feedback on your draft/revise: work on higher order concerns: structure, argument, organization

## Editing

- Work on style and lower order concerns
- Proofread, consult checklist for assignment



In a 750 word paper, reflect on

- 1) what you learned at the IP Launch, and
- 2) ways that experience may inform/affect your future practice

Criteria:

- Organized ideas (*structure*)
- Describes event (*concrete*)
- Identifies learning moment: states 1 professionally significant thing learned (*concrete*); reflects on its relevance for nursing practice (*abstract*)
- Identifies implications: discusses what you would do differently based on above (*concrete*).



- 1) What forms of organization can/should you use?
- 2) How will you structure your description?
- 3) What does a good abstract reflection include?
- 4) What does a good concrete reflection include?

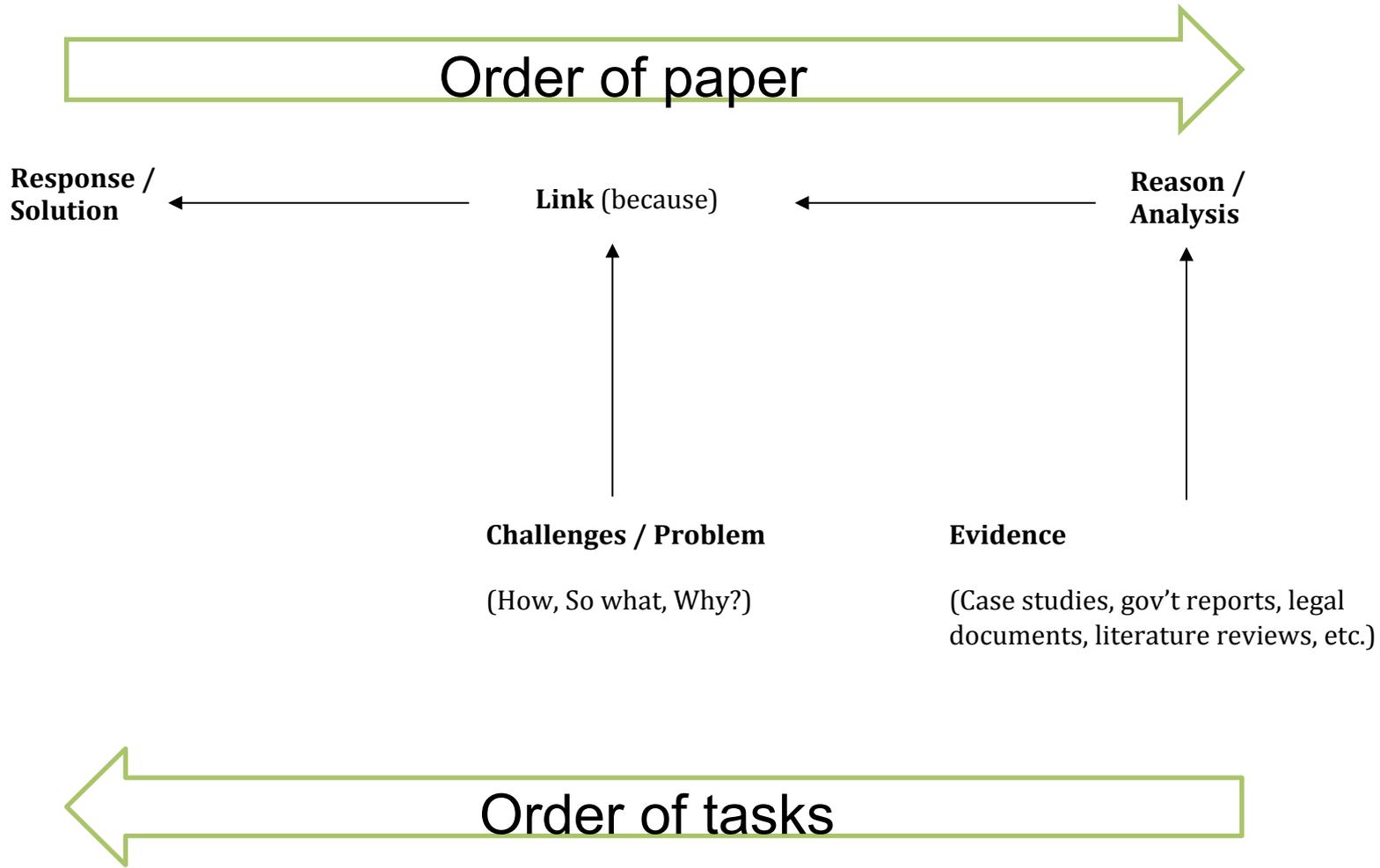


In a 250 word paragraph, write an introduction to the IP Launch reflection that includes:

- Background/context
- Thesis/statement of purpose
- Outline/description of reflection



1. Background/context:
  1. purpose: make readers immediately aware of what the issue is, *and* why they should care
    - give the “big picture” before moving into specifics
    - define terms and concepts early
2. Thesis/statement of purpose: should
  - be **specific, manageable, and interesting**
  - contain an **observation, argument, and suggest implications**
  - **Explicitly links your position/claim to your sub-claims/reasons and evidence:** “I argue X because of A, B, and C”
3. Outline/description of reflection:
  - tell your readers where you’re taking them
  - what structural/rhetorical moves will the paper make?





In a 200 word paragraph, write a conclusion to the IP Launch reflection and introduction that:

- Briefly summarizes purpose.
- Briefly restates main findings/content.
- Outlines implications of above: “so what?”
- Clearly connects to the rest of the piece (Assignment 1 and 3).



## Brevity with clarity:

- Use active, declarative sentences
  - Avoid overly-long and complex sentences
  - Avoid passive constructions
- Avoid modifiers (adjectives, adverbs)
- Maintain a disinterested, objective tone
  - Avoid placing yourself within the text (“I”)
  - Avoid emotional appeals or attempts to blatantly spin the issue/responses
- Avoid jargon: professional vs. academic
  - Expertise without obfuscation
- Be direct
  - “This policy brief addresses [need/problem]”



## Ways to introduce evidence:

- Direct quotation
- Paraphrase
- Summary

Avoid quoting directly: takes up space; cedes authority; wastes readers time.

**Paraphrase and summarize:** more concise; focuses attention on specific aspects of evidence; creates a persuasive narrative; keeps focus on *content* rather than *rhetoric*

**Always indicate when you're drawing on the ideas of another**



Always have a **topic sentence** that explicitly indicates what the paragraph is about, and how it fits within the larger document

Always have a **transition sentence** that connects each chunk of argument to the next:

- use transitional words/phrases
- link back to main claim or sub-claim

### Transitions for purpose

For this purpose	In order to	To that end
In order that	So that	To this end

### Transitions for argument or proof

Accordingly	Despite	In addition	Nevertheless	Therefore
Admittedly	Even so	In any case	Nonetheless	Thus
Although	Even though	In conclusion	Obviously	To be sure
At this level	Evidently	Indeed	Of course	Truly
Because	For	In fact	On the one	Whatever the
Besides	For the same	In light of this	hand... On	case may be
But	reason	evidence	the other hand	What's more
Certainly	Furthermore	In summary	Regardless	
Clearly, then	Granted	Meanwhile	Since	
Consequently	However	Moreover	That is	

### Transitions for exemplification, illustration, addition or clarification

Additionally	For instance	More importantly	Specifically	The next part
Again	Further	Moreover	Such as	To add
Also	Furthermore	Most importantly	Take the case of	To clarify
And then	Generally	One characteristic...	That is to say	To demonstrate
As an illustration	speaking	Another characteristic	The final type	To explain
Besides	i.e., (that is)	One example...	The first	To illustrate
Besides that	In addition	another	(second, third)	To put it another
Case in point	In another case	example	category	way
Equally	In general	One kind... another	The last group	To rephrase it
important	In other words	kind	The most	What's more
Finally	In particular	One way... Another	important	
First	In the same way	way	component	
Following this	In this case	On this occasion	The most important	
further	In this situation	Point in fact	example... The	
For example	Like	Pursuing this further	next example	

### Transitions for emphasis or repetition

Absolutely	Certainly	In brief	Obviously	To repeat
Always	Definitely	Indeed	Of course	Undeniably
As I have noted	Emphatically	In fact	Perennially	Undoubtedly
As I have said	Eternally	Naturally	Positively	Unquestionably
As has been noted	Extremely	Never	Surely	Without a doubt
Assuredly	Forever	Nobody denies	Surprisingly	Without reservation
By all means	In any case	No doubt	To be sure	

### Transitions for comparison and contrast

Although	Despite	Likewise	hand... On the	Vis à vis
After all	Even though	Meanwhile	other hand	Where
As	However	Nevertheless	Otherwise	Whereas
Balanced against	In comparison	Nonetheless	Similarly	While
But	In contrast	Of course	Still	Yet
By comparison	In the same way	Once in a while	Though	
Compared to	In spite of	On the contrary	Unlike	
Conversely	Like	On the one	Up against	

## **Transitions for concession and exception**

Admittedly	Granted	Nevertheless	Once in a while	Though
Although this may be true	However	Nonetheless	Perhaps	To be sure
Certainly	In spite of	Of course	Regardless	True
Despite	It is true that	Of course, it is true that	Sometimes	Yet
	Maybe		Still	

## **Transitions for cause and effect**

Accordingly	Because	For this reason	The first (second, third) cause / effect	important cause / effect
Another cause	Consequently	On account of	Since	Therefore
Another effect	For	Since		
As a result	For that reason	So	The most	

## **Transitions for narration and process**

After	At first	third	Meanwhile	(second, third) step
After a few hours (days, months, years)	At last	Firstly...	Nearly	The next step
After that	At the same time	secondly... thirdly	Never	The last step
Afterwards	Before	Formerly	Next	Then
Almost	Before long	Frequently	Now	Thereafter
Always	By this time	Immediately	Once	Two hours (days, months, years) later
As	Earlier	In the first place	Previously	When/While
As soon as	Eventually	In the meantime	Soon	
	Finally	Later	Subsequently	
	First... second...	Later on	The first	

## **Transitions for description**

Above	Beyond	Inside	On one side... On the other side	The least important
Behind	In	Nearby	Outside	The most important
Below	In back of	Next to	Over	Under
Between	In front of	On		

## **Transitional chains**

Basically... similarly... as well	In the first place... pursuing this further... finally
First(ly)... second(ly)... third(ly)...	In the light of the... it is easy to see that
Generally... furthermore... finally	In this case... in another case
In the first place... also... lastly	To be sure... additionally... lastly
In the first place... just in the same way... finally	

## **Transitions for conclusion or summarization**

Accordingly	Finally	In final analysis	In summary	To summarize
As a result	Hence	In final consideration	Lastly	To sum up
As I have said	In brief	In general	On the whole	Therefore
As I have shown	In conclusion	In sum	Summing up	Thus
Consequently	Indeed		To conclude	

## **References**

- Kirszner, L.G. & Mandell, S.R. (2006). *Writing first: Practice in context* (3rd ed.). Boston, MA: Bedford/St. Martin's.
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- Get feedback from a “trusted reader”
  - Consider using other students in the course or friends who you trust.
- Ask readers to read for specific purposes: thesis, structure, transitions, development of a particular paragraph or idea.



## Towards the due date, switch your focus from

- **higher-order concerns** (arrangement, arguments, evidence)  
to
- **lower-order concerns:** proofreading, grammar, citation  
format, grammar/spelling



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