

ENGL 100-700 Zoom Meeting 4b

Writing Seminar 4: Some Notes on Grammar and Style



Zoom Meeting Information

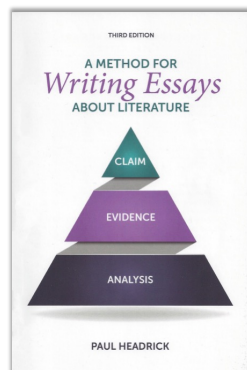
- Zoom Meetings are about 60 minutes long and are recorded.
- Recordings and PowerPoints are posted on onQ (under "Content" > "Zoom Meetings").
- Participate in the discussion by using the "Chat" window or by raising your hand under "React."
- Attendance will be taken at a random point in the meeting; your camera may be on or off.

ENGL 100-700 Zoom Meetings

Please see the Course Syllabus for specific dates and times

	a. Informational	b. Writing Seminars	c. Live Chats
Unit 1	Intro to ENGL 100	1b. Writing Seminar 1 (Crafting an Effective Thesis Statement)	1c. Live Chat 1 (Short Fiction)
	1a. Academic Integrity		
Unit 2	2a. Midcourse Exam Info Session	2b. Writing Seminar 2 (Structuring an Analytical Essay)	2c. Live Chat 2 (Drama)
Unit 3	3a. TA Check-In	3b. Writing Seminar 3 (Claim, Evidence, and Analysis)	3c. Live Chat 3 (Literary Non-Fiction)
Unit 4	4a. Final Exam Info Session	4b. Writing Seminar 4 (Some Notes on Grammar and Style)	4c. Live Chat 4 (Poetry)

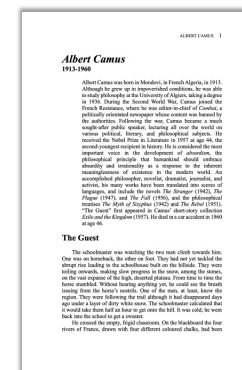
Headrick, *A Method for Writing Essays About Literature*



Writing Seminar 4

- Appendix 2: Sample Essays
 - A Literary Analysis Essay on a Short Story
- Appendix 6: Structure and Mechanics Marking Abbreviations

Camus, "The Guest" (1957)

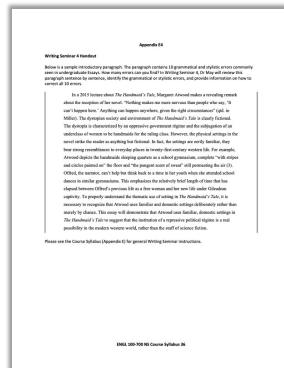


onQ > "Content" > "Course Readings"

Synopsis

Balducci (an officer) and a prisoner ascend a rocky slope in Algeria to meet Daru (a teacher). Balducci tells Daru that he is ordered by the government to take the prisoner to the police. Daru asks about the prisoner's crime, and Balducci says that it was a domestic matter, not political. As Balducci is leaving, Daru tells him that he will not take the prisoner to the police. Daru shelters the prisoner for the night. In the morning, Daru sets him free, telling him he can either turn himself in to the police or hide with the nomads. Later, Daru sees the prisoner heading east, most likely to turn himself in. When Daru looks at the blackboard in his classroom, he sees the message, "You have turned in our brother. You will pay."

Course Syllabus (Appendix D4)



onQ > "Content" > "Course Syllabus"

- a sample analytical paragraph adapted from Headrick's Sample Essay, "A Literary Analysis on a Short Story" (93-94)
- contains 10 errors commonly seen in undergraduate English essays:

grammatical

involving specific rules of syntax, punctuation, usage, etc.

stylistic

involving established norms of formal expository essay writing

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✗ Through both the prisoners decision to turn himself in and his families threat to Daru, the story suggests that personal attachments are powerful and inescapable.

✓ Through both the prisoner's decision to turn himself in and his family's threat to Daru, the story suggests that personal attachments are powerful and inescapable.

noun	type	possessive
king	sing noun	king's
marquis	sing noun -s	marquis's
mistress	sing noun -ss	mistress'
Richard	sing pr noun	Richard's
Dickens	sing pr noun -s	Dickens's
Weiss	sing pr noun -ss	Weiss'
monarchs	pl noun -s	monarchs'
Dickenses	pl pr noun	Dickenses'
men	pl irreg noun	men's
Socrates	hist personage	Socrates'

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possessive (*poss*)

- use an *apostrophe* to indicate *possession*, not *pluralization*.
- there are different arrangements of the apostrophe and the letter "s" according to the type of possessive:
 - ✓ singular vs plural noun
 - ✓ proper vs common noun
 - ✓ nouns ending in double s
 - ✓ historical personages

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✗ Before Daru and the prisoner go to sleep. The prisoner asks Daru if he will be accompanying him to Tinguit.

✓ Before Daru and the prisoner go to sleep, the prisoner asks Daru if he will be accompanying him to Tinguit.

comma splice (*splice*)

- avoid *comma splices* in formal expository writing (two complete sentences (i.e., *independent clauses*) joined together with a comma)
- correct comma splices by repunctuating the sentence:
 - ✓ use a *semicolon*
 - ✓ use a *comma* with a *coordinating conjunction*
 - ✓ use two separate sentences

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✗ When Daru says he doesn't know, the man says, "Come with us" (8).

✓ When Daru says he **does not** know, the man says, "Come with us" (8).

contraction (*cont*)

- a *contraction* is the shortening of two common words into one by replacing letters with apostrophes:
 - ✗ e.g., "can't" vs "cannot"
 - ✗ e.g., "don't" vs "do not"
 - ✗ e.g., "won't" vs "will not"
- avoid contractions in formal expository writing, as they are a form of *abbreviation*, an informal style of writing

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✗ The urgency of his request, phrased as an invitation or a command, suggest that he feels an attachment to Daru.

✓ The urgency of his request, phrased as an invitation or a command, **suggests** that he feels an attachment to Daru.

agreement (*agr*)

- the *nouns*, *pronouns*, and *verbs* in a sentence must agree in number:
 - ✓ *singular* with *singular*
 - ✓ *plural* with *plural*
- avoid mixing singular and plural nouns, pronouns, and verbs

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✗ The power of this attachment is evident when, after he is left to do as he pleases, the man expresses "a sort of panic" (11) then stands with "his arms hanging" (12).

✓ The power of this attachment is evident when, after **Daru** **leaves him** to do as he pleases, the man expresses "a sort of panic" (11) then stands with "his arms hanging" (12).

passive voice (*psv*)

- know the difference between *tense* and *voice*:
 - **tense**: when in time the sentence takes place
 - **voice**: the relationship between the subject and the object of a sentence
- avoid the *passive voice* in formal expository writing
- use the *active voice* instead

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Active Voice

noun	verb	noun
The dog	bit	the boy.
subject	performs	object
	→	
	5 words	

Passive Voice

noun	aux. verb / past part.	noun
The boy	was bitten by	the dog.
subject	is performed upon by	object
	←	
	7 words	

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✗ This suggests that complete freedom distresses him, while his “hanging” arms imply an inability to act on his freedom.

✓ The man’s “panic” suggests that complete freedom distresses him, while his “hanging” arms imply an inability to act on his freedom.

demonstrative pronoun (*dem*)

- *demonstratives*: “this,” “that,” “these,” and “those”
- *demonstrative pronouns*: when followed by a *verb*
✗ e.g., “This is mine.”
- *demonstrative adjectives*: when followed by a *noun*
✓ e.g., “This pen is mine.”
- use *demonstrative adjectives*, not *demonstrative pronouns*, in formal expository writing

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✗ By looking at Daru then taking the road to prison, Camus suggests that the man’s attachment to the schoolmaster guides his actions more powerfully than does his free will.

✓ By looking at Daru then taking the road to prison, the man suggests that his attachment to the schoolmaster guides his actions more powerfully than does his free will.

point of view (*pov*)

- avoid referring to “the reader,” “the audience,” or “the author” in formal expository writing
- meaning resides not with the author, reader, or audience, but with the work itself
- rephrase the sentence to avoid referring to “the reader,” “the audience,” or “the author,” and to refer to the work under consideration

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✓ By looking at Daru then taking the road to prison, the man suggests that his attachment to the schoolmaster guides his actions more powerfully than does his free will.

affective fallacy

- the evaluation of a work in terms of the feelings it purportedly arouses in theoretical audiences and readers (Baldick 6)
- #### intentional fallacy
- the assumption that an author’s intention (declared or assumed) in writing a work is an appropriate or valid basis for interpretation or analysis (Baldick 182)

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✗ The power of personal attachments also emerges through the message on Daru’s chalkboard, “You handed over our brother. You will pay for this” (12).

✓ The power of personal attachments also emerges through the message on Daru’s chalkboard: “You handed over our brother. You will pay for this” (12).

integration (*integ*)

- integrate direct quotations properly into the text of formal expository writing
- methods:
 - ✓ use a *colon*
 - ✓ use a *signal phrase* and a *comma* (“Atwood writes,”)
 - ✓ break down the quotation into individual words or phrases and combine them into your own phraseology

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✗ Although Daru has tried to completely detach himself from other people, this board's reference to communal brotherhood suggests that such detachment is impossible.

✓ Although Daru has tried to **detach** himself from other people, the board's reference to communal brotherhood clearly suggests that such detachment is impossible.

split infinitive (spl inf)

- the *infinitive* form of the verb is *to* + *present participle*
- splitting the infinitive involves inserting an *adverb* between the two components of the infinitive:
✗ e.g., "to boldly go"
- avoid splitting the infinitive in formal expository writing
- either delete the adverb or move it elsewhere in the sentence
✓ e.g., "to go boldly"

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✗ The quote, "You will pay for this" further implies that the consequences of his attachments to other people are inescapable.

✓ The remark that Daru must "pay for this" further implies that the consequences of his attachments to other people are inescapable.

signposting (sgnpst)

- avoid *signposting* words and phrases in formal expository writing
- a *signposting* word or phrase is one in which the writer tells the reader "out loud" what they intend to prove in an essay:
✗ e.g., "This essay will prove that..."
✗ e.g., "This quotation shows that..."

For More Information

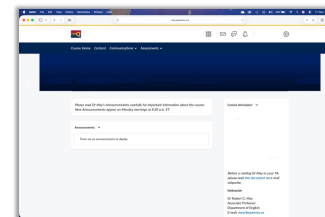
The Purdue Online Writing Lab
<https://owl.purdue.edu/>

- Writing Style:** General Writing > Writing Style
- Mechanics:** General Writing > Mechanics
- Grammar:** General Writing > Grammar
- Punctuation:** General Writing > Punctuation

Dr May's Class Web Site
<https://www.queensu.ca/academia/drrgmay/docs/>

	Integrating Quotations Dr Robert G. May Department of English
	Comma Use Dr Robert G. May Department of English
	Grammar and Style Notes Dr Robert G. May Department of English
	The Passive Voice Dr Robert G. May Department of English
	The Split Infinitive Dr Robert G. May Department of English
	This, That, These, and Those Dr Robert G. May Department of English

Quiz 4



<https://onq.queensu.ca>

- Test your knowledge of Writing Seminar 4 by writing Quiz 4.
- Access the Quiz on onQ (under "Assessments" > "Quizzes").
- The Quiz consists of a series of multiple-choice questions.
- The suggested due date for this Quiz is soon, but you may complete it anytime until the last day of class (see onQ for specific dates).
- All Quizzes count towards your final grade in the course.

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