

ENGL 100 Writing Seminar 4



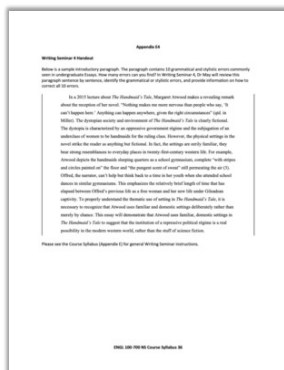
Zoom Meeting Information

- Zoom Meetings are about 60 minutes in length.
- Zoom Meetings are recorded.
- Recordings and PowerPoint presentations are posted on onQ (under “Activities” > “Zoom Meetings”).
- Participate in the discussion by using the “Chat” window or by raising your hand in “Reactions.”
- Your camera may be on or off.

ENGL 100 Zoom Meetings

	Writing Seminars	Essay Debriefs	Live Chats
Weeks 1-3	Writing Seminar 1 (Essay Structure)		Live Chat 1 (Short Fiction)
Weeks 4-6	Writing Seminar 2 (Thesis Statements)	Essay 1 Debrief (Strength/Weakness)	Live Chat 2 (Drama)
Weeks 7-9	Writing Seminar 3 (MLA and Plagiarism)	Essay 2 Debrief (Thesis Statements)	Live Chat 3 (Literary Non-Fiction)
Weeks 10-12	Writing Seminar 4 (Grammar and Style)	Essay 3 Debrief (Grammar and Style)	Live Chat 4 (Poetry)

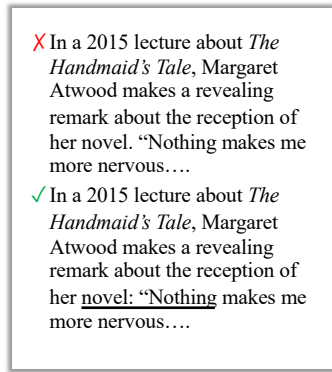
ENGL 100 Writing Seminar 4



Appendix D4

- a sample introductory paragraph
- 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

ENGL 100 Writing Seminar 4



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

ENGL 100 Writing Seminar 4

✗ The dystopian society and environment of *The Handmaid's Tale* is clearly fictional.

✓ The dystopian society and environment of *The Handmaid's Tale* are clearly fictional.

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

ENGL 100 Writing Seminar 4

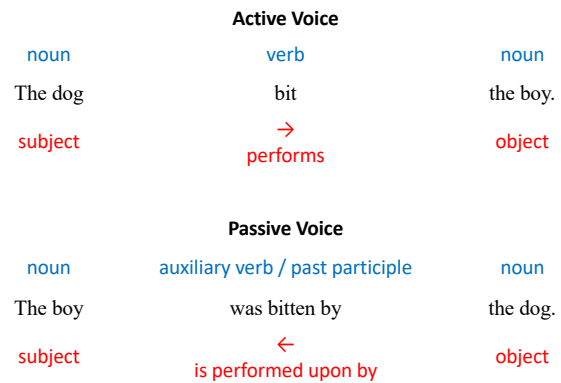
✗ The dystopia is characterized by an oppressive government régime and the subjugation of an underclass of women to be handmaids for the ruling class.

✓ An oppressive government régime and the subjugation of an underclass of women to be handmaids for the ruling class characterize the dystopia.

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

ENGL 100 Writing Seminar 4



ENGL 100 Writing Seminar 4

✗ However, the physical settings in the novel strike the reader as anything but fictional.

✓ However, the physical settings in the novel seem anything but fictional.

point of view (pov)

- avoid referring to “the reader” or “the audience” in formal expository writing
- there is no such thing as a single, transcendent “reader” or “audience”
- rephrase the sentence to avoid referring to the non-existent “reader” or “audience”

ENGL 100 Writing Seminar 4

✗ In fact, the settings are eerily familiar, they bear strong resemblances to everyday places in twenty-first-century western life.

✓ In fact, the settings are eerily familiar, and they bear strong resemblances to everyday places in twenty-first-century western life.

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

ENGL 100 Writing Seminar 4

✗ For example, Atwood depicts the handmaids sleeping quarters as a gymnasium, “with stripes and circles painted on” the floor, and the “smell of sweat” in the air (3).

✓ For example, Atwood depicts the handmaids’ sleeping quarters as a gymnasium, “with stripes and circles painted on” the floor, and the “smell of sweat” in the air (3).

- 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

ENGL 100 Writing Seminar 4

noun	type	possessive
king	singular noun	king’s
marquis	singular noun -s	marquis’s
mistress	singular noun -ss	mistress’
Richard	singular proper noun	Richard’s
Dickens	singular proper noun -s	Dickens’s
Weiss	singular proper noun -ss	Weiss’
monarchs	plural noun -s	monarchs’
Dickenses	plural proper noun	Dickenses’
men	plural irregular noun	men’s
Socrates	historical personage	Socrates’

ENGL 100 Writing Seminar 4

✗ Offred, the narrator, can’t help but think back to a time in her youth when she attended school dances in similar gymnasiums.

✓ Offred, the narrator, cannot help but think back to a time in her youth when she attended school dances in similar gymnasiums.

- 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

ENGL 100 Writing Seminar 4

✗ This emphasizes the relatively brief length of time that has elapsed between Offred's previous life as a free woman and her new life under Gileadean captivity.

✓ This disparity emphasizes the relatively brief length of time that has elapsed between Offred's previous life as a free woman and her new life under Gileadean captivity.

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

ENGL 100 Writing Seminar 4

✗ To properly understand the thematic use of setting, it is necessary to recognize that Atwood uses familiar and domestic settings deliberately rather than merely by chance.

✓ To understand properly the thematic use of setting, it is necessary to recognize that Atwood uses familiar and domestic settings deliberately rather than merely by chance.

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"

ENGL 100 Writing Seminar 4

✗ This essay will demonstrate that Atwood uses familiar, domestic settings in *The Handmaid's Tale* to suggest that the institution of a repressive political régime....

✓ This essay will demonstrate that Atwood uses familiar, domestic settings in *The Handmaid's Tale* to suggest that the institution of a repressive political régime....

signposting (*sgnpsst*)

- 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

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

- "Grammar and Style Notes"
- "Comma Use"
- "The Passive Voice"
- "The Split Infinitive"
- "Integrating Quotations"

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

- "General Writing" > "Writing Style"
- "General Writing" > "Mechanics"
- "General Writing" > "Grammar"
- "General Writing" > "Punctuation"

Queen's Student Academic Success Services (SASS) Online Resources
<https://sass.queensu.ca/onlineresources/topics/>

Queen's University Official Statement of Copyright: *This material is copyrighted and is for the sole use of students registered in courses at Queen's University. This material shall not be distributed or disseminated to anyone other than students registered in courses at Queen's University. Failure to abide by these conditions is a breach of copyright, and may also constitute a breach of academic integrity under the University Senate's Academic Integrity Policy Statement.*