

ANSC 120: Term Research Paper

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UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM



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Welcome to the Centre for Writers

The Centre for Writers will reopen on September 16, 2013. We will post more information in the coming hours soon. Please be advised that we will now require you to show your **One Card** before your appointment."

We offer free writing support to all students, instructors and staff at the University of Alberta – in any subject, discipline, program, or faculty, and at all levels of study. Tutors can assist you with any type of assignment or project, at any stage of the writing process.

To book, change, or cancel appointments, please click here.

Interested in becoming a tutor, click here.

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The Centre for Writers invites YOU to weekly, **FREE WORKSHOPS on the English language!**



The Writing *Process*

Getting started

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



Drafting/revising

- Make an appointment at a writing centre; attend a group tutorial
- 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



Individually research a topic, and write a paper related to:

- Companion animals, or
- Issues related to the use, treatment, care, and management of all animal species.

Topics:

- “Debarking” of dogs
- “Tail docking” of dogs
- Glanders disease
- Q fever
- Feral animals in North America
- Equine Viral Arteritis



Genre: facts-based, position paper/report
descriptive/argumentative

Length: 6-7 pages maximum (excluding references, double-spaced, 12 pt font, 1" margins)

Value: 10% grade

Draft Due: March 10th

References: *Canadian Veterinary Journal*, "Instructions for Authors"

<http://www.canadianveterinarians.net/documents/instructions-to-authors-cvj>

Headings: ?

Abstract: ?



Sources:

- Should **primarily** draw on current **peer-reviewed articles**:
 - Journal articles, review articles, published monographs, edited volumes, textbooks, veterinary association manuals/guides, etc.
- May use **limited** numbers of other sources:
 - Newspaper articles, op-eds, magazines, unsubstantiated internet articles, etc.
- How many?



“Individually research a topic and write and submit a paper”

What kind of paper are you being asked to write?

- Look at the verbs/questions:
 - “What is...”
 - “Describe”
 - “Discuss”
 - “Do you agree or disagree...”
 - “Justify your response”
 - “In your opinion...”
 - “Should...”
 - “Do you think...why?”

What does this mean?



Two aspects to this:

1. Research and **outline an issue**, and
2. **Take a position** based on your research

Approaches:

- **Summarize** issue: what are the relevant aspects?
- **Analyze** the topic/issue: what are the component parts?
- **Extrapolate** from your research: what are some approaches to the issue?
- **Synthesize** research: **persuade** audience of your position



You visit a country in Africa where ‘debarking’ (devocalization) dogs by local veterinarian is permitted. Upon returning to Canada you become aware that ‘Debarking’ is not recommended or supported by national and provincial veterinary governing bodies. You visit your local library to find more information about ‘Debarking’ in dogs and decide to draft a report on the subject.

- What is ‘Debarking’ in dogs, and why is this procedure completed; describe the procedure(s) used for ‘debarking’.
- Discuss the medical benefits or advantages (if any) for a dog to undergo the ‘debarking’ procedure.
- Discuss the medical complications or disadvantages (if any) for a dog to undergo the ‘debarking’ procedure.
- Discuss possible alternatives to ‘debarking’ procedure(s) in ‘problematic’ dogs.
- Discuss the ethical issues associated with ‘debarking dogs’. Are there any valid arguments that either support or challenge the ‘debarking’ procedure in both problematic and non-problematic dogs?



Draw on topic description for your structure:

- Introduction: what is the issue, why is it significant?
- Body:
 - Debarking procedure: what is it?
 - Benefits and advantages
 - Complications and disadvantages
 - Alternative procedures
 - Advantages/disadvantages
 - When/why should they be employed?
 - Ethical issues
 - Arguments for/against procedure
 - Problematic vs non-problematic animals
- Conclusion: review findings; suggest recommendations (?); further research needed (?); other implications/significance of findings



You live in Vermillion Valley Alberta and have recently purchased a Donkey from Lebanon (mistake!). You notice the donkey is coughing and has 'Farcy Pipes', and realize the donkey has **Glanders** disease. The disease can be very serious to *equidae* and people. You decide that should become more informed on the topic of **Glanders** and visit your local library to find more information about the disease and decide to draft a report on the subject.

- What is the agent that causes Glanders?; what are the possible sources or reservoirs of the pathogen?
- Discuss in detail the pathophysiology of the pathogen (include cellular mechanisms of disease, tissue injury, transmission, environmental persistence, virulence and any other areas relevant to this topic).
- Are people and other *equidae* at risk from acquiring the disease? If so, what measures could be taken to prevent the disease?; how are infected people and other *equidae* treated?
- Should various governing bodies (both medical and veterinary) be notified about your donkey's disease, and if so which ones?
- The OIE (World Organization for Animal Health) old classification system categorizes Glanders in *equidae* as a List B notifiable disease. Do you agree or disagree with the categorization of the disease and if so why (please justify your response in the paper)?



Draw on topic description for your structure:

- Introduction: what is the issue, why is it significant?
- Body:
 - Glanders: causes, sources of pathogen
 - Pathophysiology:
 - mechanisms, tissue injury, transmission, persistence, virulence, etc.
 - Risks to humans/*equidae*
 - Preventative measures
 - Treatment of infected
 - Notification: yes/no
 - Which organizations?
 - OIE categorization: agree/disagree? Why?
- Conclusion: review findings, suggest recommendations (?), further research needed (?)



Potential questions to respond to:

- Should this procedure (docking, debarking) be employed, and in what circumstances?
- Do you agree or disagree with OIE classification? (Equine Viral Arteritis, Q fever, Glanders)
- How can the issue be controlled or treated? (feral animals, Equine Viral Arteritis, Q fever, Glanders)

(Briefly!) summarize your stance in the introduction

- First person: “I argue that....”
- Or leave yourself out: “This procedure should (not) continue to be employed because....”



Must have an **explicit** position statement that answers the research question.

Position must be: specific
 manageable
 interesting

Contains an **observation**, an **argument**, and (potentially) suggests some **implications**

Explicitly links your **position/claim** to your **sub-claims/reasons** and **evidence**.

“I argue X because of A, B, and C”



Order of thesis statement/paper

**Claim /
Solution**

Link (because)

**Reason /
Analysis**

Challenges / Problem

(How, So what, Why?)

Evidence

(Case studies, gov't reports, legal documents, literature reviews, etc.)

Order of tasks



Always have a **topic sentence** that explicitly indicates what the paragraph is about, and how it fits in your argument

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

Transitions for narration and process

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

- Kirsznern, L.G. & Mandell, S.R. (2006). *Writing first: Practice in context* (3rd ed.). Boston, MA: Bedford/St. Martin's.
- The OWL at Purdue (2007). *Transitional devices*. Retrieved November 1, 2007, from <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/574/02/>
- Transition words* (n.d.). Retrieved November 1, 2007, from <http://larae.net/write/transition.html>
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How will you draw on your evidence?

- Direct quotation (statistics, clinical findings, etc.)
- Paraphrase
- Summary

Paraphrase & summarize when the **ideas** are important:
content

Always indicate when you're drawing on another's words or ideas



- Get feedback from a “trusted reader”
 - Consider using other students in the course or the Centre for Writers
- Ask readers to read for specific purposes: thesis, structure, transitions, development of a particular paragraph or idea.
- Focus on higher-order concerns before lower-order ones
- Attend a group writing tutorial



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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