



Writing Effective Discussions

GRS Writing Group – FRI 2 MAR 2018

Before writing your thesis discussion, review the UWA examination criteria and consider what examiners are looking for:



UWA Examiner's Recommendation Form

http://www.postgraduate.uwa.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0014/23333/PhD-ERF.pdf



Golding et al. 2014. What examiners do: what thesis students should know. *Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education*. 39(5):563

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/02602938.2013.859230>

If you are writing a paper, review the journal or publishers' instructions to authors to see if they give directions about the discussion content. Many journals also publish advice about writing discussions – so search the journal to see if they provided this advice as a paper or an editorial.



Hess. 2004. How to write an effective discussion. *Respiratory Care*. 49(10):1238

<http://rc.rcjournal.com/content/49/10/1238>

You will need to be confident about what you want to write in your discussion and there is an element of creativity in the writing of this section. The Thesis Whisperer believes two common sources of anxiety when writing a discussion section are confidence and creativity. She provides some strategies for starting to write your discussion:



Thesis Whisperer. How do I start my discussion chapter.

<https://thesiswhisperer.com/2012/01/23/how-do-i-start-my-discussion-chapter/>

You can write confidently and 'hedge' your conclusions.



Birkbeck University. Hedging in academic writing

http://www-di.inf.puc-rio.br/~endler/students/Hedging_Handout.pdf



Uni Learning. Modal verbs and adverbs

https://unilearning.uow.edu.au/academic/4aiii_2.html

There are many tools providing practical advice about writing your discussion:



SF Edit. Fourteen steps to writing an effective discussion section.

http://web.science.uu.nl/biomolecularsciences/downloads/items/How_to_write_a_discussion.pdf



Manchester University. Academic Phrasebank. Discussing Findings & Writing Conclusions

<http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/discussing-findings/>

Next session: APR 13 Writing about negative results

Find further details of the UWA GRS Writing Group, including advice sheets to download, here:

www.postgraduate.uwa.edu.au/students/resources/communities#writinggroup