

What's Next?

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The course “Perfecting your Publication” attracted my attention when I saw the introduction from the website of our university for the first time. I signed up for this course without hesitation though I had already foreseen my busy schedule in the last two months of my PhD study.

Coming to the last lesson, this course has proved to be a very helpful training for academic writing. I am glad that I made my choice and benefited from taking this course and meeting other participants during the past four sessions.

I received many things of high value from this course. The first one is the instruction concerning each part of an academic publication, such as the abstract, introduction, discussion, etc. The questions which I must answer and the tips that I can follow when writing each part help me to hold the main idea of my academic writing and to prevent potential deviation from the content's consistency.

The second useful tip I learned is the idea called “every word counts”. After this training, I always keep in mind one question during my writing: can I simplify or delete this word / sentence without any change to the meaning I intend to express? The answer is often a ‘yes’. This helps to keep my academic writing concise.

Another issue of great help is the “critical view” towards academic writing during the revise process. During the course, we gave comments to the writings from other participants every week. By reading those writings and offering suggestions, I understand better about what others might think of my writings and how can I improve them.

Last but not least, the exercises in vocabulary building were quite beneficial to me. Before this course, I would often write my paper according to what I thought and how I expressed myself orally, which would make my writing appear, more or less, like everyday English. This approach would obscure the clarity of my sentences and reduce the academic value of my paper. Now during my writing, I will think over the words, especially the verbs, I intend to use, and try to use the academic English.

In a word, this course “Perfecting your Publication” is very helpful to academic writers. Though it is just a four-lesson course, about 10 hours study, I learned many things of great importance with regard to academic writing. I will keep on learning from the course materials and continue to perfect my publications.

Great thanks to my teacher, Mrs. Catherine Ann Lombard.

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