

NOVEMBER 6, 2023

DHS Workshop: Writing Research Papers

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Welcome

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**Who is in the
room?**

Today's Session

1. Literature reviews

- a. UTSC Library resources
- b. AI tools
- c. Citation managers

1. Improving your writing

- a. Best practices
- b. UTSC writing centre
- c. AI tools - ChatGPT
 - i. Writing good prompts

1. Literature Reviews

UofT Library - Databases

The screenshot displays the UofT Library website interface. At the top, there is a dark blue header with the University of Toronto logo and the text 'Library UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO SCARBOROUGH'. Below this is a navigation bar with links for RESEARCH, SERVICES, ASK, ABOUT, MY ACCOUNT, UTSC, and a SEARCH button. The main content area features a search bar with the placeholder text 'Articles, books, journals, media and more' and a search icon. Below the search bar are four icons representing 'My Account', 'Databases', 'Course Reserves', and 'Advanced search'. A link for 'LibrarySearch tips & FAQs' is also present. The page is divided into three columns: 'Quick Links' with icons for Library hours, Library help, Research guides, Due dates | Fines, Book a study room, and Library tutorials; 'Using the library' with a photo of the library building and contact information for the University of Toronto Scarborough Library (1265 Military Trail, Toronto, ON M1C 1A4, 416-287-7500); and 'Workshops' listing two events: 'Nêhiyaw (Cree) Syllabics & Decolonizing Archives: Continuing the Conversation' on Monday, November 6, 2023, and 'GGPLOT2: A Gentle Introduction using R in RStudio' on Tuesday, November 7, 2023.

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Responsibilities

Health & Society








Paramedicine

Top Resources: Databases & Policy Collections

- [MEDLINE \(Ovid\)](#) Core database for health sciences disciplines. Contains citation information and abstracts from biomedical journals. The Ovid platform is appropriate for systematic and scoping reviews as well as other advanced searches. When in doubt, start with Medline.
- [PubMed](#) Public version of Medline, the core database for health sciences disciplines. This platform is best for quick clinical searches.
- [CINAHL](#) Contains citation information and abstracts from journals in nursing and health professions.
- [Policy Commons](#) The world's largest database for public policy, with millions of reports, working papers, policy briefs, data sources, and media drawn from a directory of more than 20,000 IGOs, NGOs, think tanks, and research centres.

UofT Library - Research Guides

Quick Links

 Library hours	 Library help	 Research guides
 Due dates Fines	 Book a study room	 Library tutorials
 Report noise		



A Guide to Comprehensive Searching

STEPS TO SEARCHING THE LITERATURE

- Formulate your search question
- Determine whether to search precisely or sensitively
- Gather synonyms for your search concepts
- Combine your search terms logically using AND/OR (Boolean Operators)
- Find database-specific subject heading(s) and create textword queries for each search concept
- Select appropriate database(s)
- Use a structured, methodologically rigorous approach to conduct your search
- Supplement your search with pearl-growing, handsearching, and grey literature
- Manage your results

Citation Managers

- [EndNote](#) – a free web version of this citation manager is offered via the Web of Science database.
- [Mendeley](#) – a citation manager tool provided by Elsevier, with a free version.
- [RefWorks](#) – a citation manager tool free while you are at UofT.
- [Zotero](#) – a free citation management tool.



AI Research Apps



- search optimization for sources (by like-sources)
- quick-view and summarize key points in sources, perma-links to full source
- collecting and organizing source lists
- export bibliographies
- brainstorm research question
- refine search terms
- and more!

<input type="checkbox"/> Paper	Abstract summary	Population characteristics
<input type="checkbox"/> A queer youth's challenges to normativities of time, space, and queerness: pedagogical encounters in a small town Christian youth group 🔍 Ryan Schey 2020 0 citations DOI	A queer young woman in a semi-rural small Midwestern US town experienced pedagogical encounters that helped her challenge and reconfigure normative constructions of time, space, and queerness.	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Queer, young, and homeless: A review of the literature 🔍 J. Ecker 2016 43 citations DOI	Homeless queer youth are a unique population who require specialized services.	queer youth who are homeless
<input type="checkbox"/> Voices of Queer Youth in Urban Schools: Possibilities and Limitations 🔍 Mollie V. Blackburn +1 2009 77 citations DOI	Educators working with queer youth need to understand and be prepared to address multiple social and cultural issues that intersect with sexual and gender identities.	queer girls of color
<input type="checkbox"/> For Colored Kids Who Committed Suicide, Our Outrage Isn't Enough: Queer Youth of Color, Bullying, and the Discursive Limits of Identity and Safety 🔍 E. Pritchard 2013 43 citations DOI	The intersections of LGBTQ identities with race, ethnicity, and class offer unexplored critical possibilities within current discussions of bullying.	-
<input type="checkbox"/> Cross-border art and queer incursion: On working with queer youth from southern Africa 🔍 G. Khan	Creative approaches allow for dislocation to be a successful strategy to engage queer youth.	queer youth from southern Africa



ResearchRabbit

- search genealogically for sources (by author's citations & author's friends/collaborators)
- quick-view of and perma-links to full source
- collecting and organizing source lists
- export bibliographies
- visualize how sources fit together (who is speaking with who)

The screenshot displays the ResearchRabbit interface. On the left, under "All Citations", there are filters for "Filter" (set to Relevance), "Abstracts" (unchecked), and "Comments" (checked). Below this is a list of papers:

- Mittelstadt** **Flori** **2016** (351 citations)
The Ethics of Big Data: Current and Foreseeable Issues in Biomedical Contexts
Science and Engineering Ethics
- Shin** **Shin** **2016** (73 citations)
Demystifying big data: Anatomy of big data developmental process
Telecommunications Policy
- Keegan** **Matias** **2015** (5 citations)
Actually, It's About Ethics in Computational Social Science: A Multi-party Risk-Benefit Framework for Online Community Research.
arXiv: Computers and Society
- Bronson** **Knezevic** **2016** (6 citations)
Food studies scholars can no longer ignore the rise of big data
- Shahin** **2016** (11 citations)
When Scale Meets Depth: Interactions

At the bottom left, there is a "Connections" button with a network icon and the text "Click to Hide".

The central panel shows a network graph titled "Connections between your collection and 50 papers". The "Graph Type" is set to "Network" and "Labels" are set to "First Author" and "Last Author". A search box "Filter these items" is present. The graph shows a central node "Crawford 2014" connected to many other nodes, including "Shahin 2016", "Bronson 2016", "Gillespie 2016", and "Crawford 2016".

On the right side, there are two sections:

- EXPLORE PEOPLE**
 - These Authors: 124
 - Suggested Authors: 210
- EXPLORE OTHER CONTENT**
 - Linked Content: 10

At the bottom right, there is an "EXPORT PAPERS" section with options for "BibTeX", "RIS", and "CSV".

Resource

Page

Toolkit for social science research
projects and papers

Researching	UofT Libraries - Databases* Elicit, Research Rabbit, Google Scholar
Note-keeping/mapping	OneNote, MindNode
Citation Manager	Zotero, Mendeley, Refworks, Endnotes

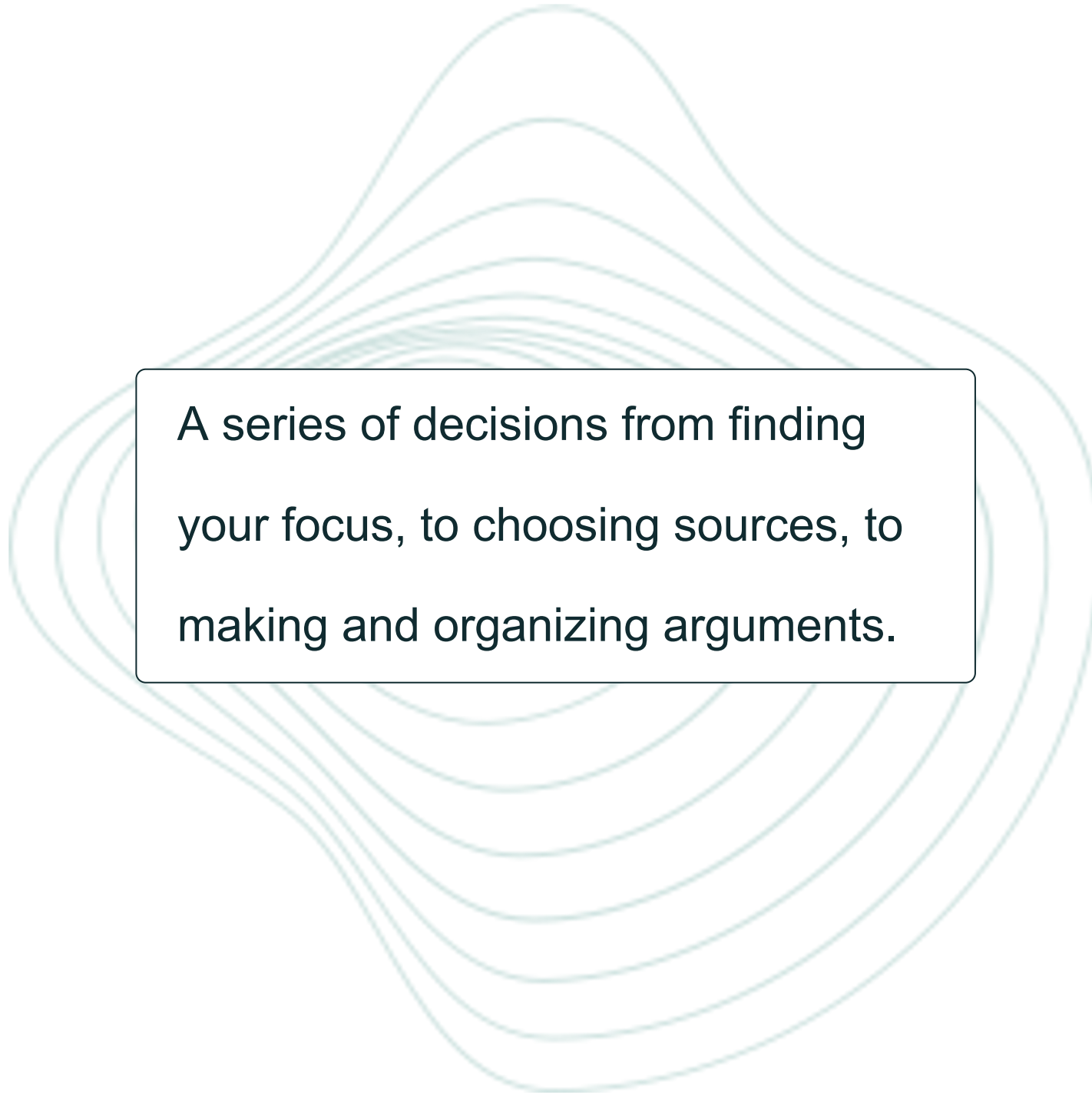


2. Improving Your Writing

Writing strategies?

The writing process

- Pre-writing (brainstorming, outlining, planning your writing)
- Drafting sections (thesis, intros and conclusions, effective paragraphs, argument techniques eg comparing)
- Incorporating sources (note-taking effectively, summarizing, paraphrasing, quotation)
- Revising (reverse outlining, editing, proofreading)



A series of decisions from finding your focus, to choosing sources, to making and organizing arguments.

UTSC Writing Support

<https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/264288/pages/writing-support-resources>

Have a question about academic writing that isn't answered here? [Ask us now!](#)

Types of Writing at University



Using and Citing Resources



Writing, Reading, and Note-taking



Writing Style and Grammar



The Writing Process



Quick Links


[Book a writing tutorial](#)

[Sign up for writing retreats and workshops](#)

[Writing programming for multilingual students](#)

[Ask a Writing Instructor](#)

[CTL Student Support Website](#)



Writing with AI assistance?

A note of caution: AI Bias, Accuracy, & Privacy

- All LLM's have potential for bias via their training and human intervention
- LLMs don't have real "understanding", but fill in what they think comes next based on their training (predictive models)
- Humans build and use the tool: "garbage in, garbage out"
 - Biases in the training data = biases in the outputs
 - Vague prompts = vague and over-generalized answers
 - Plausible-sounding info is NOT synonymous with factual or accurate info
- Also can produce plausible sounding info: Don't trust it's output at face value (needs to be verified/ critically evaluated)
- Do not share anything with LLM's you want to keep private



WRITING GOOD PROMPTS

Turns out having an AI assistant work effectively for you requires you to master skills like planning, writing, editing, and critical thinking!

- 1) Planning: your ‘use case’
 - What is your goal or need? (eg. revision for grammar, brainstorming questions)
 - What is the *specific* process that you’re trying to automate (consider your role)?
 - Check: is automating this process going to meet your need/goal? Break it down. (eg. turn this critique into a research question, revise questions)
- 2) Writing: best practices
 - Assign a role to the bot based on your need and the process you want it to automate
 - Review [guides](#) for writing good prompts & what can be automated
- 3) Editing and critical thinking:
 - A *role/persona* as ‘an expert’ = a functional tool, NOT the same as a human expert
 - Output is *designed* to sound good and use cogent grammar, but often superficial and NOT necessarily accurate or well-reasoned.
 - You must think what kind of input is appropriate for the desired output, review and fact check, and constantly revise processes!



i would like you to help me revise my writing for grammar and clarity. I will provide a paragraph of writing. Then you will evaluate it based on these criteria: strength of topic sentence, clarity of sentence structure, cohesion between sentences, grammar and spelling errors. You will provide a summary of your evaluation on each of these criteria, and suggest a revision based on your evaluation. You should not change the meaning of what I have written, but focus only on these criteria.

Detailed prompt with guardrail



Of course, I'd be happy to help you revise your writing based on the criteria you've provided. Please provide the paragraph you'd like me to evaluate, and I will give you feedback and suggestions accordingly.



Since bylaw officers are public servants who patrol public spaces, the use of the term squatter can be seen to reframe public space as private space in specific reference to specific people. Calling street-involved people 'squatters' on public space destroys their legal rights to exist anywhere. For those people who do not have access to inhabit private property, being seen as trespassers in public spaces gives those spaces the quality of private property, which they do not have lawful access to. In other words, when private space is not accessible, classifying people as a squatter on public space suggests that those people have no space to be in whatsoever. In contrast, those people who already do inhabit private property can access public space as public goods for leisure and enjoyment. Consequently, though anti-homeless laws are presented as an urban benefit, the effect is to erode the rights of particular people to public space and displace vulnerable people.



Let's evaluate your paragraph based on the criteria you provided:



1. **Strength of Topic Sentence:** Your paragraph starts with a clear topic sentence: "Since bylaw officers are public servants who patrol public spaces, the use of the term squatter can be seen to reframe public space as private space in specific reference to specific people." This sentence effectively introduces the main idea of your paragraph.
2. **Clarity of Sentence Structure:** Your sentences are generally clear, but there is room for improvement in some areas. For instance, the sentence "Calling street-involved people 'squatters' on public space destroys their legal rights to exist anywhere" could be rewritten for better clarity. Additionally, the sentence "In contrast, those people who already do inhabit private property can access public space as public goods for leisure and enjoyment" might benefit from restructuring for smoother flow.
3. **Cohesion Between Sentences:** Overall, your paragraph has good cohesion between sentences. Each sentence builds on the previous one to convey a coherent argument.
4. **Grammar and Spelling Errors:** There are a few grammatical issues, such as missing articles (e.g., "Calling street-involved people 'squatters' on public space" could be improved to "Calling street-involved people 'squatters' on public space"), and some sentences might benefit from minor punctuation adjustments for clarity.

Here's a suggested revision based on the evaluation:

"Since bylaw officers are public servants tasked with patrolling public spaces, the use of the term 'squatter' can be interpreted as an attempt to reframe public space as private space, specifically in reference to certain individuals. Referring to street-involved people as 'squatters' in public spaces undermines their legal right to exist anywhere. For those who lack access to private property, being labeled as trespassers in public spaces falsely imbues these areas with the characteristics of private property to which they lack lawful access. In essence, when private space is inaccessible, classifying individuals as 'squatters' in public spaces implies that they have no space to occupy whatsoever. Conversely, those who already reside in private property can enjoy public spaces as common resources for leisure and recreation. Consequently, while anti-homeless laws are presented as urban improvements, their actual effect is to erode the rights of specific individuals to public spaces and displace vulnerable populations."

This revision maintains your original meaning while addressing the clarity and grammar issues identified.



But the P.G. data shows a further reframing of non-belonging = the homeless squatter as not just without private space and undesirable in public space (like the vagrant), but in effect and expression, and spurred by discourse of a threat to the body public (like the criminal), as intruding on public space (ignoring both reliance and right, like the adverse possessor and privileging the consumer-citizen's reliance and right like rightful property title holders). This makes public property take on the quality of private property in reference to specific people, and municipal law take on the quality of criminal law (punitive prohibitions). And it reproduces the municipal colonization of space in reference to Indigenous peoples.



Let's evaluate your paragraph based on the criteria you provided:



1. **Strength of Topic Sentence:** Your paragraph begins with a clear topic sentence: "But the P.G. data shows a further reframing of non-belonging = the homeless squatter..." This sentence effectively introduces the main idea of the paragraph.
2. **Clarity of Sentence Structure:** Your sentences are complex and contain multiple ideas, which can make them challenging to follow. Simplifying some sentences and breaking down complex ideas into smaller, more digestible parts would enhance clarity.
3. **Cohesion Between Sentences:** Your paragraph demonstrates good cohesion, with sentences building on one another to present a coherent argument.
4. **Grammar and Spelling Errors:** There are no significant grammar or spelling errors in your paragraph.

BUT, I've prompted it to not change or add new meaning

BUT, are terms well-explained for a human audience?

Here's a suggested revision based on the evaluation:

"However, the P.G. data reveals a deeper transformation of the concept of non-belonging, depicting the homeless squatter not merely as someone lacking private space or unwelcome in public spaces (akin to a vagrant). It portrays them, driven by discourse that labels them a threat to the public, much like a criminal, intruding on public spaces while disregarding both their reliance and rights—similar to an adverse possessor. This discourse favors the rights of the consumer-citizen, akin to rightful property title holders. As a consequence, this perspective blurs the line between public and private property concerning specific individuals, causing municipal law to resemble criminal law with its punitive prohibitions. Furthermore, it perpetuates the municipal appropriation of space concerning Indigenous peoples."

Not clear, needs added context & explanation. AI can only string together words - makes sense formally, but doesn't have reference to substance. = Back to drafting...

This revision maintains your original meaning while enhancing clarity and readability.



KEY TAKE-AWAYS

- AI writing assistance is a limited tool that, if used, should be incorporated carefully into existing writing processes, eg. pre-writing, outlining, revising
- You use the tool in your workflow, the tool shouldn't complete your work for you
- Be mindful of academic integrity policies and use with the permissions of your supervisor (be transparent about how you're using it)