

TIPS ON LEARNING IN EMI COURSES

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I. To learn better during lessons:

1. Read before you attend a lesson. Skim through the abstract, headings & conclusion before you read the whole paper (略讀摘要, 標題及結論); it helps you understand the content)
2. Learn repeated terms & key concepts (重點概念) before the lesson
 - Look them up in Wikipedia for simple explanations
 - Look them up on Google Books or Google search engine with “is defined as” or “filetype:ppt.” For instance, “New Historicism is defined as” or “New Historicism filetype:ppt”
3. Actively engage in class. If you show you don’t know, the teacher can help you.

II. To write better assignments:

Before writing

Try to decide on your topic early on so that you can read around the topic and think more about it; nothing can beat longer engagement with an idea

During writing

1. Try to talk about your ideas with people around you (e.g., family, friends) and see if it makes sense to them; it also helps you clarify your ideas
2. Start early. Revision makes your work perfect.
3. Think of a rough outline; although you will find you need to revise it, it will be useful
4. A good piece of writing is *cohesive* (文法上的連貫) and *coherent* (邏輯上的連貫); ideas stick together. Once you finish writing, read your thesis statement, headings, and topic sentences and see if they are connected to each other
5. To find the right words or expressions
 - Use thesaurus (thesaurus.com) to look for the right word by entering a word with a similar meaning
 - Google search: For idiomatic expressions or collocations (words that go together), type them together on Google Books inside quotation marks (“ ”). If the search returns a large number of results, (e.g., 900, 000), and the quoted materials in the first couple of pages are relevant to your intended usage, they are safe to use.
6. Have had a writer’s block (腦閉塞)? Then read more. It will make you move on.
7. You can revise your essay better if you revisit your writing after some time.

III. Useful Online Resources

Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences <http://www.yale.edu/graduateschool/writing/tutorials.html>

Writing in College: A Short Guide to College <http://writing-program.uchicago.edu/resources/collegewriting/index.htm>

Academic Phrase Bank <http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/>

APA Style Annotated https://owl.english.purdue.edu/media/pdf/20090212013008_560.pdf