

# Dimensions of writing, types of writers and the writing process



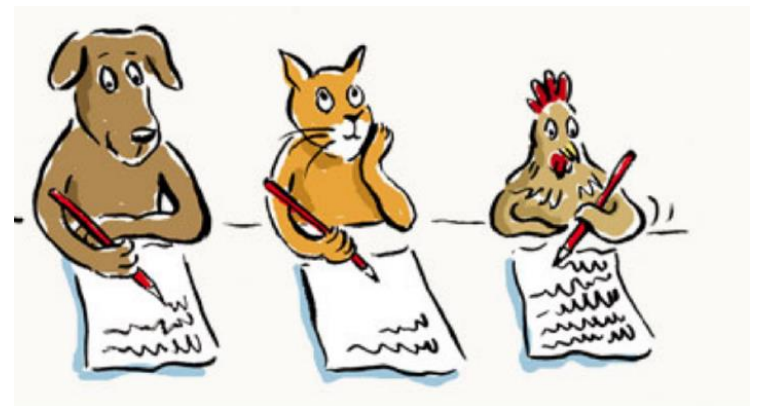
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Writing Centre of the Department of Linguistics, 9 March 2020

# Introduction

## Who am I and what am I writing?

- name
- degree programme
- semester
- native language(s)
- number of term or other papers already written
- current writing project
- expectations of the seminar







**Process:  
Cognitive control/thinking**

Ho do I proceed?  
How do I organize myself?

finding a topic

writing

literature research

feedback

structure

revision



**Context:  
The social side /  
discourse community**

In which context will my text  
take effect?  
Who am I when I am writing?

Who does the text address?

What level of knowledge is assumed  
in the reader?



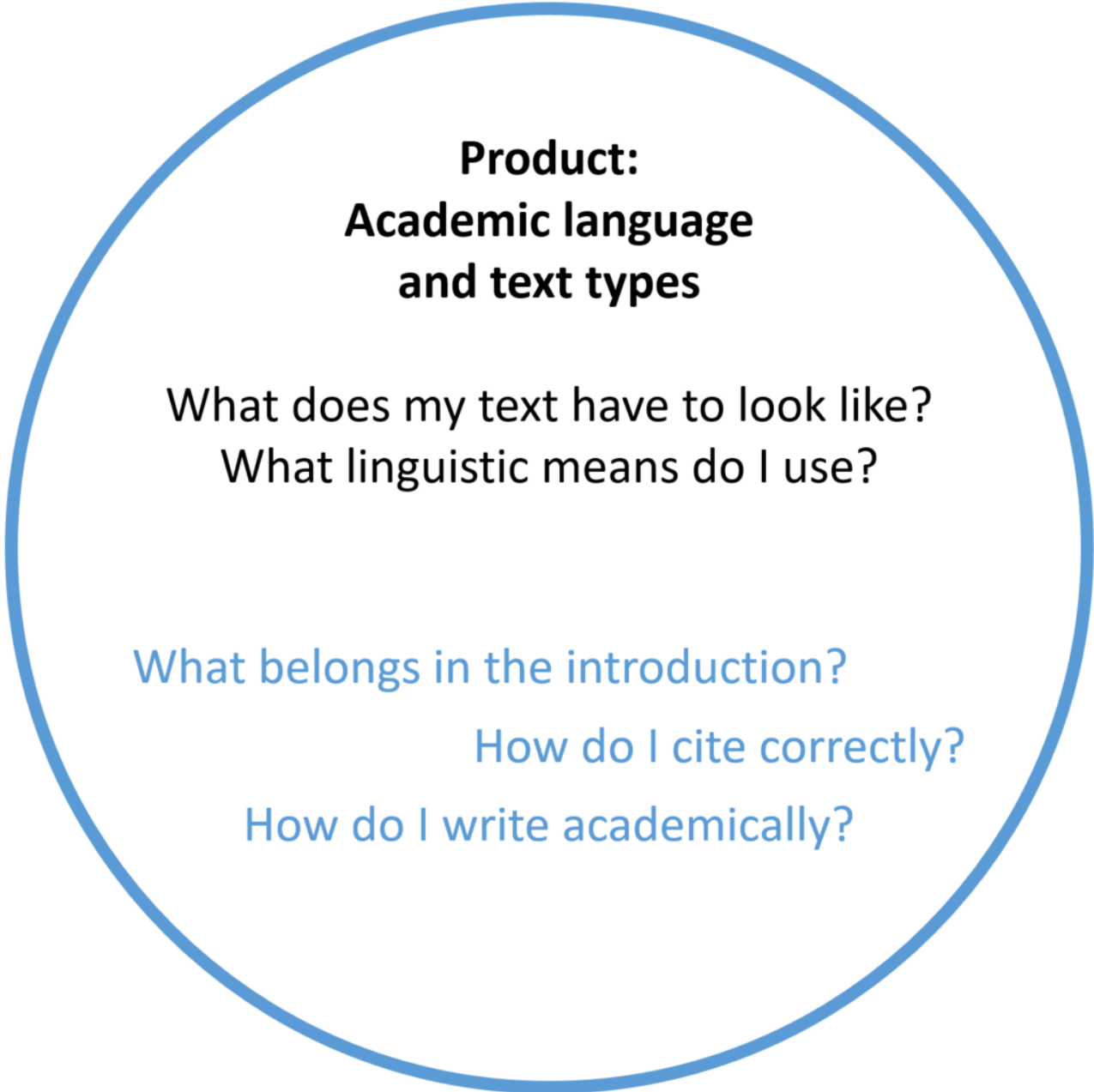
**Medium:  
Medium of writing  
and communication**

How do I use media (library,  
computer, internet, EDP)?

literature databases

programmes for reference management

word processing programmes



**Product:  
Academic language  
and text types**

What does my text have to look like?  
What linguistic means do I use?

What belongs in the introduction?

How do I cite correctly?

How do I write academically?



**Content:**  
**The dimension of content /**  
**expert knowledge**

What do I write about?  
How do I find and create the  
required knowledge?





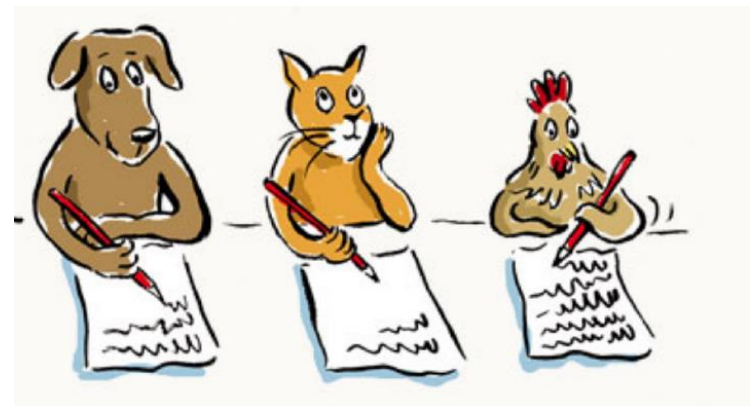
# Everyone writes differently

*What type of writer am I?\**

## Task

- Carry out the test individually.
- Evaluate the test. How often did you answer (a), (b), (c) or (d)?

\*Test and evaluation adapted by Melanie Seiß from:  
Arnold, Sven, Rosaria Chirico & Daniela Liebscher. 2012.  
Goldgräber oder Eichhörnchen - welcher Schreibertyp  
sind Sie? Über 350 Interessierte entdeckten ihren  
Schreibertyp und nutzten die "Speed-Beratung" bei der  
Langen Nacht der Wissenschaften 2011 in Berlin. *Journal  
der Schreibberatung* 4. 82–97.

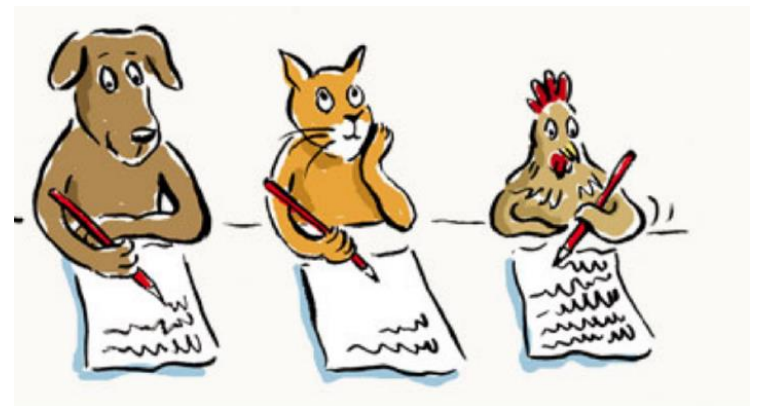


# Everyone writes differently

## Group work

### Task

- Describe your approach to writing.
- What are the benefits and risks?
- Find a suitable label or motto.



# Everyone writes differently

## Mostly (a): The *write away* writers

**Motto: The journey is the destination.**

You like to write away and you only develop your ideas and the structure of your texts while writing.

### Advantages

- You write freely and carefree and it rarely gets boring.
- You are open to new ideas, which you often find when writing.
- You can soon see what you have achieved.

### Risks

- You easily drift away from the actual topic.
- You need to allow more time for revision.
- There is no end in sight.

# Everyone writes differently

## Mostly (a): The *write away* writer

**Motto:** The journey is the destination.

You like to write away and you only develop your ideas and the structure of your texts while writing.

## Writing adventurers

e.g. André Breton, Martin Walser (*Death of a Critic*), Siegfried Lenz

# Everyone writes differently

## Mostly (b): The patchwork writer

**Motto: Gather and leap.**

You do not write from beginning to end, but at this or that part of the text. In between, you also interrupt writing to research information.

### Advantages

- You are flexible and can continue writing in another section if you are not making progress.
- Many small tasks reduce your fear of the big picture.
- Preliminarity prevents paralyzing perfectionism.

### Risks

- You may put difficult text parts off infinitely.
- You may lose track easily.
- There is no end in sight.

# Everyone writes differently

## Mostly (b): The patchwork writer

**Motto: Gather and leap.**

You do not write from beginning to end, but at this or that part of the text. In between, you also interrupt writing to research information.

## Squirrels

e.g. Ingeborg Bachmann (poetry, *Malina*), Günther Grass (*The Tin Drum*, *Cat and Mouse*), Thomas Mann (*Death in Venice*, *The Magic Mountain*)

# Everyone writes differently

## Mostly (c): The planners

**Motto: Plan and dig deep.**

You prefer to make a plan before you start and stick to it while writing.

### Advantages

- Your approach is clear and allows for good time management.
- You can find the golden thread in your text at any time.
- You can explain your planning well to others and can write in a team.

### Risks

- You are not open to new ideas.
- You may get lost in planning and start writing too late.
- It takes a long time before you see tangible results in the form of text.



# Everyone writes differently

## Mostly (c): The planners

**Motto: Plan and dig deep.**

You prefer to make a plan before you start and stick to it while writing.

## Gold miners

e.g. Peter Handke, Hermann Hesse (*Steppenwolf*), Henning Mankell (*Wallander* crime series), Carl Zuckmayer

# Everyone writes differently

## Mostly (d): The writers of many versions

**Motto: Take several run-ups to get to the point.**

You write your texts in several versions: You often set aside the beginnings and parts of your text and then rewrite them.

### Advantages

- You can write with no worries and without aspiring to perfection.
- You use writing to think.
- In the final version of your texts, you get to the point quickly.

### Risks

- You have to part with a lot of text later.
- Writing seems time-consuming.
- You may lose track if too many versions are created.

# Everyone writes differently

## Mostly (d): The writers of many versions

**Motto: Take several run-ups to get to the point.**

You write your texts in several versions: You often set aside the beginnings and parts of your text and then rewrite them.

## Decathletes

e.g. Friedrich Dürrenmatt (*The Physicists*, *The Visit*), Heinrich Böll (*The Lost Honour of Katharina Blum*, *The Clown*)

# Model writing process

	Orientation & planning, literature research, finding a topic	Evaluating the material, structuring	Writing a draft	Getting feedback, revision	Correction (letting revise), finishing up
Reading	Quick reading, overview	Focused reading	Reading the excerpts and mind maps	Re-reading your text with regard to different aspects	Scrutinizing your text
Writing	Personal notes, clusters, bibliography, schedule	Exposé, structure, excerpts, mind maps, zero drafts	Write a draft, cluster, mind map	Write missing parts, re-write parts	Continue writing
Speaking	Talk to lecturer to specify the research question	Talk to lecturer about the structure and literature, talk to fellow students about texts	Talk about the writing process	Get feedback	Get feedback from supervisor after submission

Adapted from:

Girgensohn, Katrin & Nadja Sennewald. 2012. *Schreiben lehren, Schreiben lernen: Eine Einführung*. Darmstadt: Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft.

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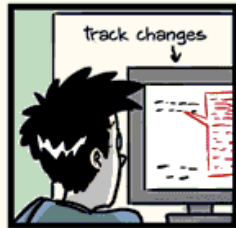
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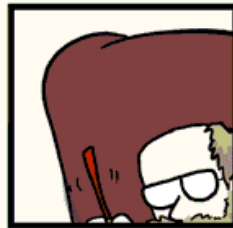
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