

Writing the Research Paper



Roger Graves → Director, Writing Across the Curriculum → University of Alberta




University of Alberta

Animal Science 120

Companion Animals
& Society

Roger Graves



Roger Graves

Director, Writing Across the Curriculum
Professor, EFS

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- c4w
- writing initiatives
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As Director of Writing Across the Curriculum, I'll be working with faculty and students across the university to improve student writing. I consult with instructors and departments, and I teach writing in a wide variety of courses when students in those courses are starting a writing assignment. I will also be working with students and faculty in the Department of English and Film Studies, my home department.


I am the author, co-author, or editor of six books and 29 articles, including *Writing Instruction in Canadian Universities*. My current research interests include the development of doctoral student writing, writing assignments across disciplinary fields, and rhetorical approaches to text encoding. Currently I serve as co-President of the Canadian Association for the Study of Discourse and Writing (CASDW), the

Recent presentations to classes

This page contains links to slides displayed at presentations I've given to classes.

Research and faculty presentations

Digital rhetoric



<http://www.ualberta.ca/~graves1/index.html>

Writing Across the Curriculum



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Writing Across the Curriculum website at the University of Alberta. The header features the University of Alberta logo, the text "Writing Initiatives University of Alberta", and the main title "Writing Across the Curriculum". A dark green navigation bar contains links for Home, Presentations, Other Programs, Resources by Subject, Contact Us, WAC Videos, WAC Statistics, WAC Data, and Newsletter. The main content area is titled "Presentations to Classes" and lists several presentations for Fall 2010. A left sidebar contains links for Centre for Writers, Writing@UofA, WRS Courses, Roger Graves, Blog, and Academic Honesty.

Presentations to Classes

Fall 2010

Graduate Students Writing Workshop

Writing Genres
Elements of Scholarly Academic Papers
University of Alberta, November 18 2010

Nursing 390: The Scholarly Paper
Faculty of Nursing, November 5 2010

Political Science 101: The Scholarly Research Essay
Faculty of Arts, November 5 2010

RLS 502: The Thought Paper and Thesis Proposal
Faculty of Physical Education, Recreation, and Leisure Studies, October 25 2010

Mechanical Engineering 200: Writing the 500 word paper
Faculty of Engineering, October 25 2010

Religious Studies 274: How to write the long essay
Faculty of Arts, October 18 2010

Centre for Writers
Writing@UofA
WRS Courses
Roger Graves
Blog
Academic Honesty

<http://www.humanities.ualberta.ca/WAC/>

Centre for Writers



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Centre for Writers at the University of Alberta. The header features the University of Alberta logo on the left and the 'Writing Initiatives' and 'Centre for Writers' logos on the right. A green navigation bar is positioned below the header. On the left side, there is a vertical menu with yellow buttons for various services. The main content area on the right contains a breadcrumb trail, a welcome message, a notice about booking appointments, a list of resources, and operating hours. At the bottom, there is a photograph of a writing desk.

 *Writing Initiatives*
University of Alberta  *Centre for Writers*

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[Book An Appointment](#)
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[About Us](#)
[Hours and Location](#)
[Tutor Bios](#)
[Policies](#)
[Centre for Writers Guiding Principles](#)
[FAQ](#)
[Resources](#)
[Other Writing Centres](#)
[WAC](#)
[WRS](#)
[Writing Initiatives](#)

[Home > Home](#)

Welcome to the Centre for Writers

We offer free writing support to all students, instructors and staff at the University of Alberta – in any subject, discipline, program, or project at any stage of the writing process

To BOOK, CHANGE, or CANCEL APPOINTMENTS, please click [HERE](#)

This website also offers style manuals, dictionaries, ESL/EAL resources, writing handbooks, and discipline-specific writing resource

C4W will be open during the Fall Term (September 20 - December 10):

Monday to Thursday : 10:00AM – 7:00 PM
Friday : 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Professors/Instructors: request a classroom visit by a tutor.

Are you a U of A student? Do you want to work as a tutor at the Centre for Writers next year? Click [here](#) for more information!



<http://www.c4w.arts.ualberta.ca/>

The writing process: 3 keys to success

Getting started

- Explore the assignment
- Make rough notes
- Pick a tentative topic

Getting feedback

- Make an appointment at the centre for writers
- Get feedback on your draft/revise

Revising

- Work on style and lower order concerns
- Proofread, consult checklist for assignment

The Assignment: Term Paper

➤ Assignment 1

- Students will be assigned one topic either directly relating to the companion animals, or issues that are considered 'new developments' or controversial in the use, treatment, care and management of all animal species (livestock, wild animals and so forth).
- Each student will individually research the topic and write and submit a paper



Format:

- 12%
- 6-7 pages, 12pt Times New Roman, double-spaced, 1 inch margins, one-sided
- Title page, intro, body, conclusion
- Use referencing style as required in "Instructions for Authors" in the Canadian Veterinary Journal

Goal/purpose of assignment

➤ “Each student will individually research the topic and write and submit a paper. “

Choices: can you

- analyze the topic?
- Give a history of the topic?
- Compare sides?
- Synthesize research on the topic?
- Persuade an audience?

Topics

- Students will be assigned one topic either directly relating to the companion animals, or **issues** that are considered 'new developments' or **controversial** in the use, treatment, care and management of all animal species (livestock, wild animals and so forth).
- Do you have your topics?
- What do the words "issues" and "controversial" suggest about how you should approach the assignment?

From topic to thesis

- Translate that topic into a thesis by stating what your *attitude* is to that topic (support it? Abolish it?)
- Shepherding lessons provide benefits beyond the immediate purpose of gathering and moving stock **because** the same commands used in the field help control and discipline dogs at home and in public places.

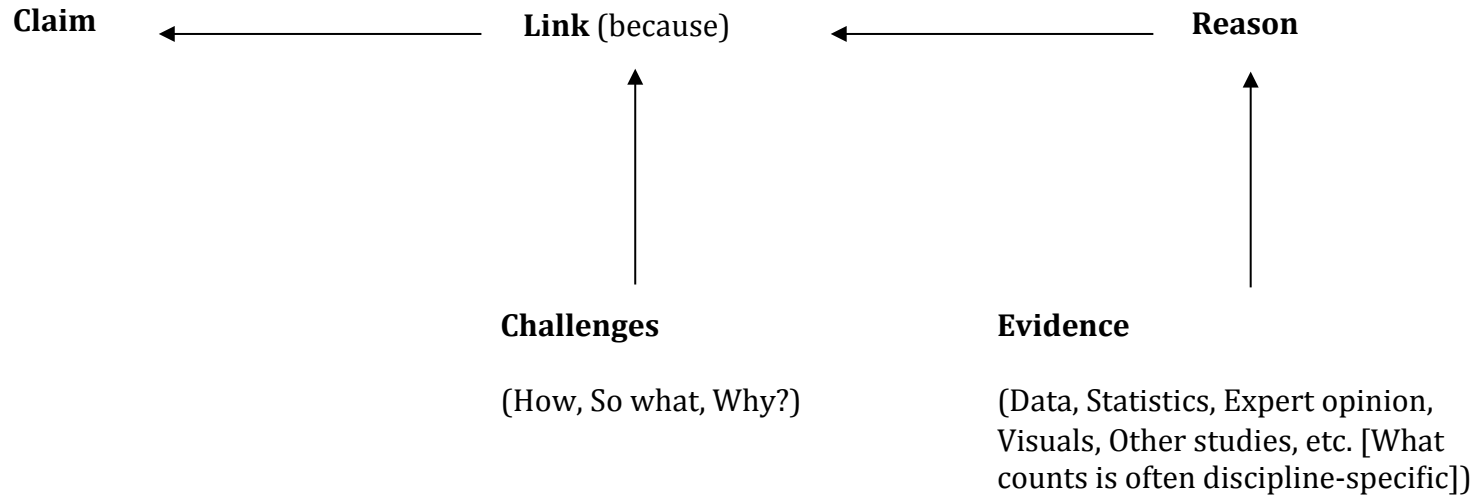
Thesis statements

- Specific: clear stance
- Manageable
- Interesting
- Animal training is a crucial responsibility of pet ownership for pets that interact with visitors to the home or that venture into public spaces because these kinds of pets, when untrained, may pose threats to public safety.

A claim in 3 parts

- This paper will **develop a set of terms that describe animal hoarding that distinguish it from animal collecting**; I will also summarize the solutions to the problem of animal hoarding that appear in the research literature.

Informal Argument and Academic Writing



Ex. [this study] will be a unique scholarly contribution as very few studies genuinely combine oral history and the documentary record.

Possible thesis statements

➤ Animal abuse and domestic violence

➤ Animal training

Possible thesis statements

➤ Feral animals

➤ Zoonotic diseases

The Outline: Getting organized

- **Title**
- **Introduction and Context/background:** Identify the problem, issue; strong statement of aim/purpose [thesis]; briefly outline what you are going to cover in the body
- **Body of paper:** use subtitles; organize by argumentative point you are making
- **Conclusions:** What does it all mean? does a coherent perspective on this topic emerge from your reading? No new information
- **References:** List all references you have cited in your text (minimum ?).

Keys to success

- Get started
- Read some articles
- Summarize the articles
- Get a working thesis
- Put an outline together
- Get someone to read your draft
- Revise

APA (6th, 2010) Citation

- Clark, G. I, & Boyer, W. N. (1993). The effects of dog obedience training and behavioural counselling upon the human-canine relationship. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* 37: 147-159. Retrieved from <http://apps.isiknowledge.com>.