

Introduction to Academic Writing - 5th Class - September 12th 2018

(SUMMARY WRITTEN AND PROVIDED BY THE PRPPG7000 TEACHING ASSISTANTS)

Professor Ron Martinez started the fifth class, *Writing your introduction*, asking the students the reason why we spend so much time writing an introduction. In this regard, he explained that this part of the text, besides the title, is the first impression a reader has about our work and it should be positive. So, the author must let everything set in a way the reader will be able to understand what has been said. To help developing our text, we can find someone to talk about it: in the same way there are days that we just need to talk to someone about our feelings, there are situations that we just need to count on someone to listen about our work - that's what happen at CAPA (capa.ufpr.br), where students and professors can find someone to listen to them about their work and their issues writing about it.

Regarding writing in English or in Portuguese, professor Ron made clear that it is fine to write in any of these two languages. By the way, he suggested to let the ideas flow at a first writing moment, instead of stopping the process because of language issues that could be solved later. Besides, Ron emphasized the importance of a clear “they say, I say” in the introduction, that is the territory of the research, what other authors have said about the subject, and our own contribution. He also pointed two problems with most introductions: the first is that people do not make the parts of the text connected to each other, what can be solved by using connectors as “therefore” and “however”; the second is putting information that does not make any sense with the rest of the introduction.

Later, as practice activity, the professor showed a summary about the story of the Three Little Pigs and asked the class to identify problems and improve it through Formative (goformative.com). After that, students should read their own introductions, considering today's points, and discuss them with someone, if possible. Besides, the Professor asked the students to download one of the introductions available on his website, identify problems and try to fix it. About these introductions, the professor pointed one problem on the sample in Portuguese: the repetition of the same information along the text.

As homework, there is a task on Formative – to copy and paste one of the introductions available on professor's website and work on it. Moreover, students should give a feedback about this class' activity, also on formative. Last, but not least, students should keep writing their own introductions, due to September 26th.