

Introduction to Academic Writing - 7th Class - September 26th 2018

(SUMMARY WRITTEN AND PROVIDED BY THE PRPPG7000 TEACHING ASSISTANTS)

Professor Ron began the 7th class, *Presenting Your Results*, explaining some changes on the syllabus outline: due to SIEPE, which will happen next week, there will be no class on October 3rd. Shortly thereafter, he showed results sections on two different articles and asked the students to analyze and to improve it. After that, he introduced the guest speaker, Prof. Dr. Eloana Bonfleur (eloanabonfleur@ufpr.br), who talked about tables and how to use them in a research.

Prof. Dr. Eloana, who is a soil researcher and a collaborator at CAPA, taught about graphic elements in academic papers, due to her ability to create this kind of material. The professor showed data on how a research is received by a reader: from 1000 readers who look at a paper because of its title, only 10% read the introduction and the abstract and 1% reads the results and the discussion sections. So, the title is something that should catch the reader's attention. According to Professor Eloana, it happens due to the easy access to papers, because of the internet, many students do not have time to read the entire works and are attracted only by the title.

In the sequence, the professor presented ways to insert tables in texts, explaining that tables are "like the brain of an academic work" (Peter Morgan), because it brings rational absolute values and does not depend on a textual interpretation. She presented some tables that could have been shown in form of text, explaining that a good table should present a concise and clear title, the nature of the study, what was measured, location and time. Tables should only be used when the author has accurate data. The rule presented by the professor is that the author must show data in form of text, table or figures, never presenting the same data in more than one way.

Professor Eloana further explained that tables should be designed with simple and objective information, in a way that the reader can understand the data without looking at the

text. Table and caption should be close to each other to avoid divergence of data. Data should be presented in a way that similar elements (data treatment, observation etc.) are read horizontally. The text in the column must be left-aligned and the numbers must be right-aligned or aligned at the decimal point. The professor also explained that we should never enter information in a table without discussing it in the text: everything that appears in the table should be discussed in the text.

Finally, the professor presented examples of figures, how and when use them in a paper. She also talked about graphic summaries, which aim to make a layman understand the essence of some paper.

As homework, Module 6 is open on Formative: the students should choose one of the articles available on the professor's website (<http://www.drronmartinez.com/prppg7000-escrita-academica-em-ingles.html>), read only the discussion section and identify if the author: admits a limitation; speaks about the practical implication; and/or compare the results with the other authors. In addition, the professor asked to identify the same points in Hanauer & Englander's article, "Quantifying the burden of writing research in a second language: Data From Mexican scientists", due to October 10.