**Introduction to Academic Writing - 10th Class - October 31, 2018**

**(SUMMARY WRITTEN AND PROVIDED BY THE PRPPG7000 TEACHING ASSISTANTS)**

NOTE: Unfortunately, Professor Ron could not attend the Halloween class, so we had a special substitute: Elvis Presley (he lives!).

Professor Ron (Elvis) started the class by saying that most students leave college without knowing what plagiarism is. Besides that, most of articles’ rectifications in Brazil happen due to plagiarism. Something that may explain that is the fact that people do not learn about it, so they do not know how to avoid it.

Then, Ron mentioned that nowadays, most journals use electronic devices to detect plagiarism. Also, there are many degrees of plagiarism, some are more severe than others: clone – copy of a whole work; ctrl C – copy and paste some passages without citing the source; find-replace – when you just change some word and keep it very similar; recycle/self-plagiarism – using your own work without citing it.

The professor also brought a definition of plagiarism: “Plagiarism is the practice of using or copying someone else’s idea or work and pretending that you thought of it or created it.”. An example of plagiarism in real life is the speech of Melania Trump, who copied some things from Michelle Obama’s speech.

In order to avoid plagiarism, Professor Ron explained the metaphor of sauce. He said that, in your text, it has to be clear that you are making your own sauce, which means that your own voice has to be very clear in the text, so it won’t be easy to mess your voice with other voices. Also, Ron mentioned that “language alone may be a Red Herring”, which means that if things are not well signalized they may be misunderstood. That’s why connectors, such as “therefore”, “similarly”, “moreover”, are important; besides, some verbs are also essential to report other works, as “proposed”, “concluded”. Reporting and paraphrasing are essential! Pay special attention in the Introduction and Discussion of your work, these are the sections where plagiarism most appears. So, your voice must appear even when you are citing.

Some electronic devices you can use to check plagiarism in your works are: “grammarly” or “paper rates”; there are some paid devices, such as “plagramme”, which may provide better results. However, the best option is to just avoid plagiarism, now that you are familiar with it. There are some legal effects in the University to people who practice plagiarism; the resolution is available in the discipline’s site.

Another topic brought by Ron was: is writing a paper about my dissertation considered plagiarism? It is important to alert the editors about this and also put it as a reference. Also, it is important to write differently from your dissertation, since an article is different from a dissertation. Use your ideas but create a new sauce.

In the end of the class, a Professor from Mechanical Engineering told his story with plagiarism. He had a huge group of researchers working on a big project, constructing a machine, but when they wrote an article, it was rejected many times. In their last chance, they discovered that it was rejected because of plagiarism. Then, they re-wrote the article thinking about the electronic device that would analyze it. Sometimes, these devices are not very accurate and may count as plagiarism things that actually are not. So, his advice is to avoid using common words and try to write a work that differentiates from others. Remember that, areas that have much research are a more difficult place to write something new, so it is important to be alert to not copy things.

Homework: PEER FEEDBACK – You will receive in your emails the instructions to do the peer feedback, when you will analyze the work of a colleague and make comments, due to 14/11. Open the last slide of this class to see all instructions.