DISSECT!

Parts of an Honors Project
Honors College
University of North Carolina Wilmington

Things Come Apart, Todd McLellan
Christine Kalina @ Flickr
Things Come Apart, Todd McLellan
Communicate
Inform

Entertain
Persuade

"To write is an act of bravery."
We write to think, not think to write

Corollaries

1. Clear writing is evidence of clear thinking
2. Scholars should be writing often
Scholarship
a prolonged conversation, a dialogue
you have a seat at the table

What will you say?

How will you reach them?

Write!
1 Scholarly Writing
2 Honors Paper Structure
3 Writing Process
4 Sharing your work
Forms of Scholarly Writing

- More Formal
  - Honors Project
  - Master’s Thesis, Dissertation
  - Poster
  - Book
  - Journal article
  - Conference abstract
  - Conference paper

- Less Formal
  - Planning documents
  - Prospectus
  - Research journal
  - Emails
  - Letters
  - Memos
1. Scholarly Writing
2. Honors Project Paper Structure
3. Writing Process
4. Sharing your work
Typical Honors Paper Outline – Best Practices

Abstract

Introduction

Methods/Procedures

Results/Findings/Product

Discussion & Conclusions

References

Critical Reflection

Expected content, style, and organization may vary by discipline.

Science writing tends to be very formulaic – strong constraints like writing poetry (e.g., Haiku or Shakespeare’s iambic pentameter)
Could use slides for humanities. And creative writing, film studies
Abstract

A one-paragraph summary of the main points of your honors project.

Often ~1 sentence per section of your honors paper.

Must Stand Alone
    Often distributed separately from the main body of your writing

Often have limits such as 150 - 300 words.
The Presence of Virtuosity in Irish Traditional Music

Kieran McCarthy Fell
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Faculty Mentor: Brooks deWetter-Smith
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

ABSTRACT
In April 2013, I designed a research project to explore connections between classical flute playing and Irish traditional music. I hoped to discover if learning traditional flute and understanding its surrounding musical culture could positively affect my classical flute studies. The information I collected provided the basis for this paper, in which several parameters for the term “virtuosity” are defined and analyzed in relation to Irish traditional instrumental music. These parameters were chosen using articles from scholarly journals that examine characteristics of virtuosity beyond exceptional technical facility. Such characteristics include a performer’s emotional impact, musical creativity, and the ability to think critically about his or her music. Additional aspects of virtuosity that were considered were: recognition from others in the field of Irish traditional music; the presence of competition; the dedication necessary to be considered an authority capable of expanding the musical style; and the performance longevity as an individual or group to influence the genre for an extended period of time.

Fell, K. 2014. HUP! The presence of virtuosity in Irish traditional music. Explorations 9: 7 – 16
Sickly Sweet: The Development of a Standardized Method Testing for Lactose and Fructose Intolerance and Malabsorption

Taylor Lawless
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Faculty Mentor: Kimberly B. Myers
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ABSTRACT
Lactose intolerance has been a known cause of gastrointestinal distress for many years. Recently, scientists have discovered that fructose intolerance elicits many of the same symptoms as lactose intolerance. The consumption of fructose has more than doubled in the past twenty years; similarly, the instances of fructose intolerance have also increased. Fructose and lactose intolerance are measured using similar methods. While there are common practices and guidelines used when testing for fructose and lactose intolerance and malabsorptive issues, there is no official standard method including precise practices for before, during, and after the test. Therefore, in the present study a standardized form and set of recommendations were suggested by comparing methods used in previous studies. If used on a wide scale, the standard system would enable researchers to compare results of different studies. Ultimately, this would help researchers gain a better understanding of lactose and fructose intolerance and malabsorptive issues and to measure the frequency of diagnoses for each condition in order to develop improved treatments and potential cures.
Introduction

Funnel your reader into your work

Q: What does your audience need to know to understand the work you are reporting?

- Broad Introduction to Topic
- Significance?
- Literature Review
  put work in context
- Your specific objectives, hypotheses, and questions

How many paragraphs are in Honors Paper introductions in your discipline?
Materials & Methods

• Describe the materials used
• Describe the methodology
  – data collection
  – analytical frameworks.
• Describe your data analysis procedures (quantitative or qualitative)
Results

• Describe what you learned
• Report your **evidence** or supporting arguments
• In the sciences
  – typically short and sweet
  – includes references to figures and tables with your supporting evidence
• In the creative space
  – Film = results
  – Music Score = results
  – Photography = results
  – Play Production = results
  – Novel or short story = results
Discussion

1. Don’t repeat your results; explain them.
   What mechanisms might explain your results?
2. What is the significance of your results?
3. How do they compare to values previously reported in the literature?
4. Critically evaluate your scholarship.
   Are your results accurate representations of the phenomenon you studied?
   What would you differently next time?
Activity (~15 min)

Pick an Honors Paper from the table
  – Preferably something from your discipline

Read the Abstract
  – Can you describe what the student did?

Write down the first level outline
  – Does it follow the “best practice” outline presented?
  – Does it include a separate section for a literature review?

Count the number of paragraphs in each section
  – Discuss these numbers with your peers – what was the average #’s, variance?

Select 2 Figures or Tables to examine
  – Based on the captions, can you infer the main point of the Fig/Tab?

Scan the Discussion or Conclusion section
  – What were the 2-3 main points of the student’s thesis?

How many references did the student cite? Format?
1. Scholarly Writing
2. Honors Project Paper Structure
3. Writing Process
4. Sharing your work
Pre-Writing

Writing that occurs before you write your actual honors paper

Part may serve as drafts of sections

- Research Journal
- Action Plan
- Literature Review
- Prospectus
Consider “SOAPStone”

- Speaker
- Occasion
- Audience
- Purpose
- Subject
- Tone

SOAPStone: A Strategy for Reading and Writing
| Ogden Morse

Outline – Plan your Writing

Organize your thoughts into an outline

– Multiple levels (1\textsuperscript{st}, 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 3\textsuperscript{rd} Headings)
  
  • Tools
    
    – In MS Word use \textit{Heading Styles}, then use \textit{Outline View} in Word
    – Use mind mapping software to brainstorm an outline

– Paragraph level
  
  • main point of the paragraph?
  • Supporting evidence?
Given that scholarship is a protracted **dialogue**, you **must** read & review the relevant literature.

- Follow disciplinary guidelines, discuss **procedure** with mentor
- Perhaps write as a stand alone document
- Must be **thorough**
- Organize and **Summarize** main ideas – by topic, method, author, etc.
- Note important **authors** and major **conclusions**
- Include a **bibliography** with the works you read and cite
- Read other’s bibliography to find relevant works
Drafting the Essay

• Use your preparation tools
  – Plan
  – Outline
  – Research journal

• You don’t have to write in linear order – start with the section you know the most about
  – Try writing the introduction in reverse paragraph order
  – Try by starting to write the methods section
Expect to edit and revise your work. It’s a process.
The power of your writing is linked to its style.

Study a style manual to make sure that your prose is lively, varied [with respect to sentence types and lengths, and paragraph types and lengths], exact, refreshing, gripping.
1 Scholarly Writing
2 Honors Project Paper Structure
3 Writing Process
4 Sharing your work
Opportunities to Share – Getting it Out There

• Local or Regional Meetings or Forums
  – UNCW Student Showcase
  – Poster vs. Presentation

• Defense

• Publish your work!
  – Discipline Journal
  – Explorations (NC), UReCA (National Honors) or other Undergrad Journals
Engaging with your Discipline

• Attend professional meetings
• Chair a session at a conference
Take Home Points (aka learning objectives)

After attending this workshop, you should be able to ....

1. Describe the structure of a scholarly honors project

2. Identify the stages of writing

3. Apply common methods and strategies to perform scholarly tasks including sharing your work with an audience