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How to use your own voice in writing

Trawsnewid Addysg; Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education; Transforming Lives



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Include your own voice in your writing

- Your voice will emerge through your discussion, interpretation, and evaluation of the sources.
- Here are some ways you can establish your voice in your writing:

Example 1

- Make your unattributed (not referenced) assertion at the start of paragraphs followed by evidence, findings, arguments from your sources.
- **Example:**
- “To date there is no well-established tool to measure divided attention in children. Current methods used to assess divided attention usually involve a variation of the CPT with an additional task included e.g. counting or listening to auditory stimuli (Salthouse, 2003).”

Example 2

Explicitly tell your reader what the connections are between sources.

- **Example:**
- “Smith (2009), however takes a different approach...”

Example 3

Explicitly tell your reader what the connections are between those sources and your main assertion.

- **Example:**
- “Netzer's argument challenges the term 'renaissance', as it displays repeatedly the use of classical imagery during the medieval period, therefore illustrating that canonising a chronological period can be disadvantageous as characteristics of the term.”

Example 4

Use language to show your strong agreement/disagreement/cautious agreement with sources.

- **Example:**
- “Smith's (2009) findings show a clear...A serious weakness with this argument is...The research suggests...”

Example 5

Include “so what” summary sentences (evaluative sentences) at the end of paragraphs.

- **Example:**
- “This shows that it is detrimental to strictly categorise chronological periods with artistic genres, as many art historians suggest different movements were taking place in separate geographical locations at the same time.”

Other Tips

- Using different verbs in your writing will show your understanding of the sources, for example:
 - “Stevenson (2015) explains that...”
 - “Stevenson (2015) argues...”
 - “Stevenson (2015) describes how...”
- You can also use verbs to show your agreement or disagreement with other author's arguments. For example:
 - “Stevenson (2015) correctly identifies...”
 - “Stevenson (2015) fails to consider...”
 - “Stevenson (2015) reveals... “

Now to your own reflection on your reading

- Introduce one of your readings in 2-3 sentences that tell us about its content and why it is important for your dissertation (i.e., reflection)