

Step Up to Masters: Academic Voice and confidence (transcript)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=udM1hm_yLzQ

What are some of the challenges you've faced when writing at Masters level?

Salla: I think a big difference from being in Masters and an Undergrad is that I'm obviously studying very different topics so something that I had to be really conscious of is not to write descriptively and showing my teachers that I understand what the terms mean. I've had to make sure that I'm writing critically and concisely because although I'm learning a lot of new things and there's lots of theories and some of the topics are quite broad the actual assignment lengths are short and so I've been working really hard to make sure that I'm writing clearly, concisely, but also critically.

Emily: I think it has been a little bit of a step up I do write quite a lot anyway in my day to day job but I think it's been difficult shifting from writing with someone to writing on my own and to develop my own style of writing, but I find just sort of reading over things and revising and things has really helped me with that and I have my own little technique of sort of writing things and printing it out, marking it off and then going back to it and sort of typing it up which really helps me. I find it difficult to read things off the screen and edit it, so being in the library and having the like printers nearby you can print it off, redo it, do it again, it's been really useful.

How did you develop your academic voice at Masters level?

Rodrigo: I think - for me at least - I think it has been really a process in which I have first to start writing something regarding on if it was correct or not, then receiving some feedback, then talking to my professors or friends in order to see what could be modified, then if we had to do any presentation just like just turn up and try to do it and also say okay you have to change this, you have to change this other thing, so it has been for me at least I think it's part of a process that you have to keep just trying and you know sometimes you're just going to fail but some other times you just have to like just get courage and just do it and that way you'll see that you'll be improving step by step.

Hannah: I talked to my lecturers so in a couple of courses we did have a trial essay before we actually had an assignment that was graded, we had to hand in a piece of work, a written piece of work and got feedback on it and that was where I realised okay my writing structure has to change a bit and then I asked okay how can I actually improve my writing and then what we did later on was a couple of friends and I we would just write pieces and you could change them and give each other feedback so not really grading things but just saying okay you might want to rethink the way you structure your work here.

What makes high quality Masters writing?

Header text

Jennifer: I think something that's clear, I think for me I like something that's clear, tells the reader what they're going to be looking at and then narrowing it all down to a point, why are you talking about it, and why is it important.

Peter: Confidence in your own opinion, confidence to express that opinion confidence to challenge the works that are cited even if those works have been pushed forward as the authority on the subject by your tutor don't be afraid to challenge what your tutor says.