University of **Reading**

Building Blocks of Writing webinars

Writing critically - focus on language

Criticality, evaluation, and analysis are highly valued in university writing. In this session we will look closely at the various ways critical arguments are presented in academic texts and we will then explore strategies for using evaluative language in your own writing.

Language for Academic Integrity (1): Avoiding plagiarism

Understanding how to report the ideas of others appropriately is key to achieving good academic practice in your university writing. This webinar will provide an overview of the features of language and in-text referencing that distinguish good academic practice (Academic Integrity) from bad (potential plagiarism).

Language for Academic Integrity (2): Citing and referencing sources

Citing accurately and appropriately is an essential skill. This session will look at the different uses for integral and non-integral citation, highlight the language associated with each, and explain the meaning and grammar of the most frequent reporting verbs (e.g. 'argue', 'find', 'suggest').

Language for Academic Integrity (3): Paraphrasing & summarising

Expressing ideas from source texts both accurately and in your own words can be extremely challenging. This webinar will show you grammatical and lexical techniques that can help write/produce more effective paraphrases and summaries.

Language for synthesising sources

In academic writing tasks you are often required to *synthesise*, i.e. bring ideas together from, multiple source texts to either develop an idea (e.g. by linking theory to examples), or to show scholarly positioning and debate. This session highlights and teaches useful vocabulary and phrasing for these purposes.

Language for writing definitions

Providing clear and precise definitions is a key academic writing skill. This session will look at common grammatical patterns (e.g. *noun + prepositional phrase*, *noun + relative clause*) and useful phrases for giving definitions, explanations, and examples. You will also see examples of definitions in context in academic texts.

Language for flow and clarity – writing coherent and cohesive texts

Sometimes grammatically accurate texts can still be difficult for readers to engage with. This session teaches techniques for creating a logical flow between sentences, and language for making clear connections between ideas.

Successfully editing and proof-reading your written work

This important skill of reviewing your work for text errors such as poor punctuation, typos, and spelling mistakes, as well as sentence structure and text flow, is vital in ensuring you produce a professional piece of work. This session will explore the common mistakes writers make and how to edit and proof-read your work efficiently.