

FAQ about Scientific Writing Assistance Available to DUSON Students from Elena A. Turner

What kinds of papers can Elena help me with?

Pretty much everything: course papers; group papers; article critiques; Doctoral dissertations; DNP project proposals, abstracts, and manuscripts

Do I need to have a complete draft of a paper ready in order to schedule an appointment?

No. You can submit your paper as a final draft or at any stage along the way—even a draft outline. Just be sure to put in enough effort before submitting the draft so that you are confident that it makes sense and you can point Elena toward specific areas in the draft for which you need guidance.

Why should I make an appointment before I have a complete draft?

Elena can easily spot issues with your direction or flow very early in the writing process and can set you on the correct course for a well-written paper. Submitting a paper too late in the writing process might mean doing a lot of rushed rewriting. (Note: This danger is especially true for journal submissions.)

What happens if I can't find an appointment that works with my schedule?

Your best bet is to plan ahead and plan to work on your papers well before the due date. If you can't find a suitable appointment, however, contact Elena by e-mail at elena.turner@duke.edu to see if you can be placed on a wait list or make a special arrangement for an appointment that fits your schedule. Please note that there is no guarantee that a special arrangement can be made, and you should only use this method sparingly.

Can Elena help me with my grammar and sentence structure?

Absolutely! One of your most important goals as a scientific writer is to create papers that your peers understand. With poor grammar and ineffective sentence structure, your main points can be lost and so can your readers. Elena's got dozens of tips for remembering the rules of effective writing, and she's excited to share them with you. Many of them already appear on her DUSON page, so check that out before you submit a paper for review.

Can't I just learn all this "good writing" stuff from a web site?

Some high-quality web sites devoted to the process of effective writing do exist. But when you receive feedback from Elena, you get detailed suggestions about your own manuscript; she'll address your specific needs. Learning the rules of good writing while applying them directly to your own writing under the guidance of an experienced editor is simply the best, fastest method to becoming a strong writer—one worthy of good grades and publications. You can start your education by viewing the helpful how-to videos on the DUSON site. In fact, we recommend applying the instructions in those videos prior to submitting your paper for review so that Elena can focus on other writing issues during her review.

Does this service cost me anything?

No. The leadership at DUSON have generously made scientific writing assistance a FREE service for students in all DUSON programs. We're pretty certain this is the only time in your life you'll get access to such assistance for free!

Schedule your appointment to receive comprehensive e-mailed feedback from Elena today. **Please read the updated student agreement on DukeBox carefully so you understand your responsibilities.** Check Elena's WebMail calendar for available appointment times and find a paper-submission date that works with your schedule, then e-mail Elena at elena.turner@duke.edu to request an appointment.