

26 May 2014

1:30pm – 2:20pm

Room A306

Roundtable: Interpreting writing assignments in content subjects

Leaders: English Writing Requirement Team, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Discussion: <http://todaysmeet.com/wrtpewrt>



Abstract

Interpreting the expectations of writing assignment instructions given by content teachers is crucial for students at university. Writing Centre teachers and those helping students with their writing in the disciplines also need to examine the instructions and conventions within the discipline to ensure that students do not receive conflicting messages from language and content teachers.

This roundtable will focus on what language teachers can or should do when helping students to interpret writing assignments in content subjects. We will start with the following questions:

- What do content teachers include in their writing instructions?
- What difficulties students face in interpreting writing instructions in their content subjects?
- What role do language teachers play in helping students with their discipline specific writing assignments?
- Should content teachers provide more information and scaffolding in their writing instructions? Will that curb creativity and originality?
- How much and what type of support should language teachers provide to students working on discipline specific assignments?

Biodata

Formed at the end of 2013, the English Writing Requirement Team works closely with content subject teachers as well as language teachers. Our main aim is to help students develop as writers across disciplines through the completion of the university-wide writing requirement.