

Brian Chan

The following is a sampling of my feedback given to university students in my job as a document reviewer.

Evaluating an Undergraduate Thesis

My Response to Student

Your thesis is on the harms of employee discrimination in the workplace. While it looks like it is on the right track, there is some room for improvement in its structure, choice of language, spelling/grammar, and use of sources.

Structure

Your thesis gives a comprehensive survey of the work done in matters relating to employee discrimination. The introduction to your thesis captures well what your thesis is about. Having said this, there appear to be some points in your introduction that can be improved upon. These stem from cohesion in paragraph and floating sentences issues. In addition, the font size used in your thesis title can be made larger. For the most part, the paragraphs in your thesis have clear topic sentences and flow logically from one to the next. Your use of headings is effective in organizing your paper. Some of the key points in your paper are summarised in your conclusion. However, you do not clearly link the points you made back to the aims of your paper. Doing so may help the reader better understand your thought process. To make your thesis more focused, I will suggest writing a conclusion that summarises the key ideas in your work. The paragraphs in your thesis mostly stick to one point at a time, but there are some issues relating to cohesion in paragraphs and floating sentences. For more on this, see my annotations.

Language

The tone conveyed in your thesis is appropriate in an academic setting. However, there are issues that relate to presenting ambiguous information, using acronyms, unnecessary language, choosing the correct word for the context, and making your meaning clear. This is detailed in my annotations, and addressing these issues may improve the clarity of your thesis.

Spelling/Grammar

Some issues relating to the spelling and grammar of your thesis include using commas before modifying phrases, adding commas before coordinating conjunctions, adding commas after

introductory phrases, use of capitalisation, correctly using semicolons, and using commas with lists. Knowing when to add, or not to add, pauses in your sentences can improve the readability of your thesis. For more on these issues, see my annotations.

Use of Sources

Overall, you appear to have used an appropriate number of academic sources throughout your work. You have drawn extensively on appropriate source material and integrated it well to formulate a coherent argument. You have also explained the relevance of this material to your overarching arguments. However, I find an inconsistency with an in-text citation you used. This is described in my annotations. In addition, I would suggest avoiding inconsistencies in the formatting of your reference list.

Final Comments

I hope that this feedback will be helpful to you and that you will be able to finalise your work to your satisfaction.

Evaluating an Undergraduate Essay

My Response to Student

Your essay examines heart disease and medication. While it looks like it is on the right track, there is some room for improvement in the structure, choice of language, spelling/grammar, and use of sources.

Structure

Your essay examines background context and known facts relating to heart disease and medication. In the introduction of your essay, I find an opening statement, but it does not lead to the thesis of your essay. I find that your body paragraphs do not have a clear direction. Although there are topic sentences within your paragraphs, they do not effectively address the thesis of your essay. When writing a concluding paragraph, ensure that you summarise the premises made in the body paragraphs, that the concluding paragraph recaps the thesis, and that closing sentences that sum up the essay are added. I notice that you have mentioned topics that are different from the rest of your essay; this detracts from the focus of your essay.

I sometimes find a lack of cohesion within the paragraphs. Particularly, in the conclusion, you mention topics not previously mentioned then switch back to the main issue discussed in the body of your essay. You may refer to my annotations for more on this feedback.

Language

The register used in your essay is appropriate for an academic setting, and it keeps my interest as a reader. However, there is some room for improvement. For instance, I notice an issue, detailed in my annotations, relating to choosing the correct word for the context.

Spelling/Grammar

Some issues relating to the grammar of your essay include choosing the correct word form, and missing words in sentences, affecting clarity. This is detailed in my annotations.

Sources

Overall, you appear to have used an appropriate number of academic sources throughout your work. There are a few places in your work where you can improve your approach to using source material in your argument. Sources need to be clearly linked to your ideas, so, don't forget to include some explanation of how they are relevant. In addition, there are a few places in your work where your source material can benefit from some additional explanation to help the reader see its relevance to your arguments. I find that you have not cited your sources consistently throughout your work. For instance, there are places in your conclusion where you use a source but do not cite it.

Final Comments

I hope that this feedback will be of help to you and that you will be able to appropriately finalise your work.