Balancing old and new activity types on an academic writing website

Hilary Nesi

&

Sheena Gardner

A follow-on project

Intended to apply findings from 'An Investigation of Genres of Assessed Writing in British Higher Education' 2004-2007

www.coventry.ac.uk/bawe



For the British Council Learn English website http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/

The team

- Hilary Nesi and Sheena Gardner from the original ESRC project
- Andy Gillett materials developer
- Tim Kelly video and multimedia
- Elly Hutchings icons
- Alex Woolner consultant from Coventry Serious Games Institute
- Adam Kightley British Council

Project objectives

- To raise teachers' and learners' awareness of the types of writing produced by students in specific disciplines
- To create motivating academic writing materials
- To improve the quality of student writing, especially the writing produced by users of English as a second or a foreign language.

Basic Exercise Templates

True or False Reordering Vertical Reordering Horizontal **Multiple Choice Error Correction** Matching Gap Fill Drag & Drop **Gap Fill Typing** Grouping Multiple Selection Image Matching Image Library



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Writing for a Purpose

Materials to improve the quality of discipline-specific student work.



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Home > Writing for a Purpose Writing for a Purpose introduction Primary Purposes Genre Families Your Writing Task next▶ Disciplines Writing for a Purpose About Us Materials to improve the quality of discipline-specific student work. Introduction This is the basic Primary Purposes menu for the site Genre Families Your Writing Task Disciplines About Us next▶

Expanding the Menu

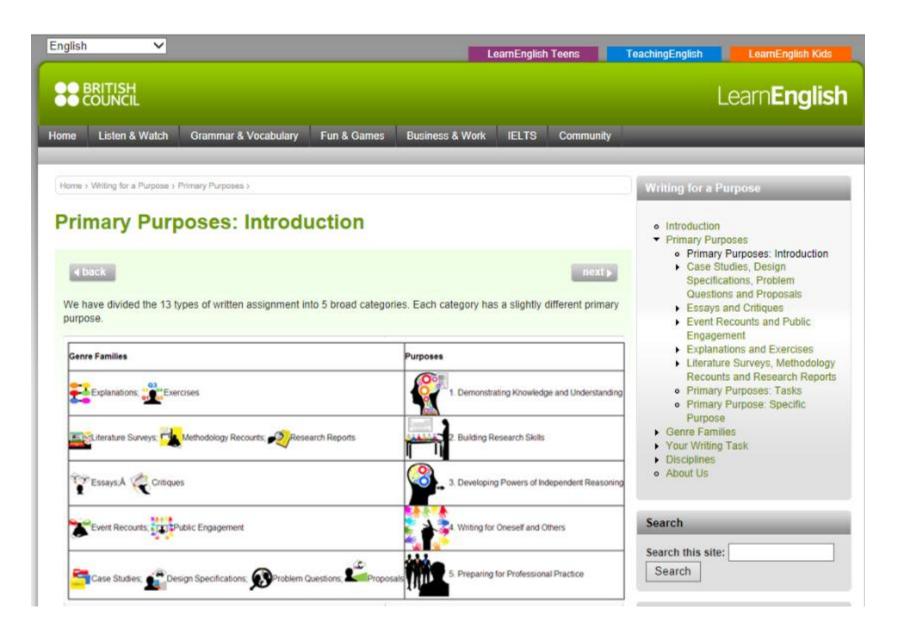
The 'Primary Purposes' section provides audio files of mini –interviews, gap-fill and matching tasks

Writing for a Purpose

- Introduction
- ▼ Primary Purposes
 - Primary Purposes: Introduction
 - Case Studies, Design Specifications, Problem Questions and Proposals
 - · Essays and Critiques
 - Event Recounts and Public Engagement
 - Explanations and Exercises
 - Literature Surveys, Methodology Recounts and Research Reports
 - Primary Purposes: Tasks
 - Primary Purpose: Specific Purpose
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Purposes linked to genre families:

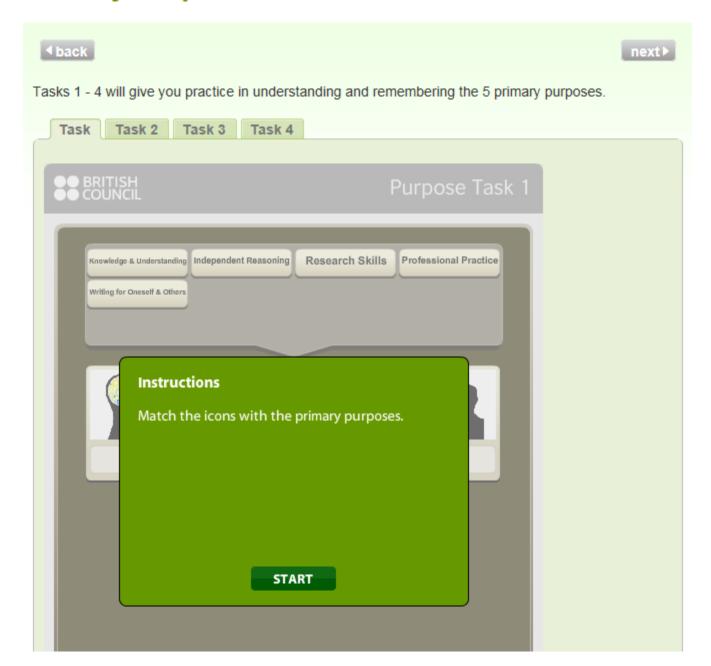
Purpose		Genre families
Demonstrating knowledge and understanding		Exercises Explanations
Developing powers of independent reasoning	Lacoriti	Critique Essay
Building research skills	8.	Literature Survey, Methodology Recount, Research Report
Preparing for professional practice		Case Study, Design Specification, Problem Question, Proposal
Writing for oneself and others		Event Recount, Public Engagement



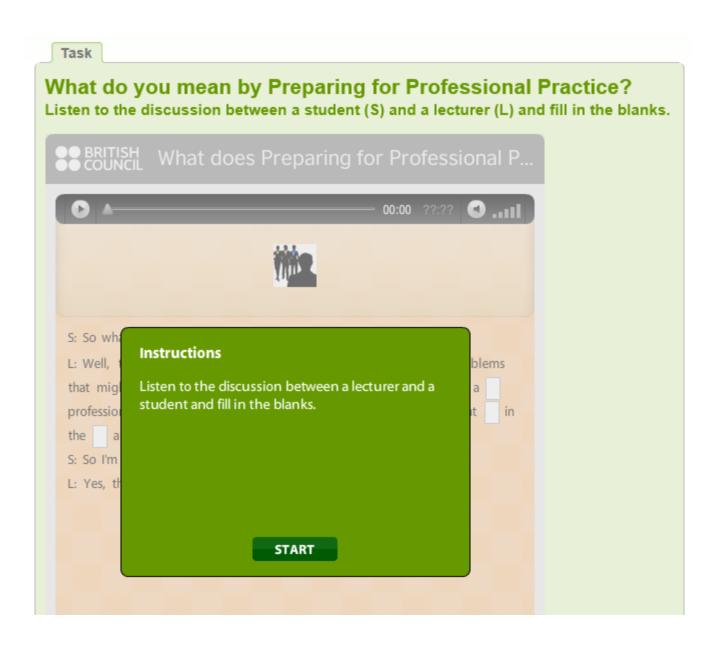
Icons are associated with each purpose, and each genre family



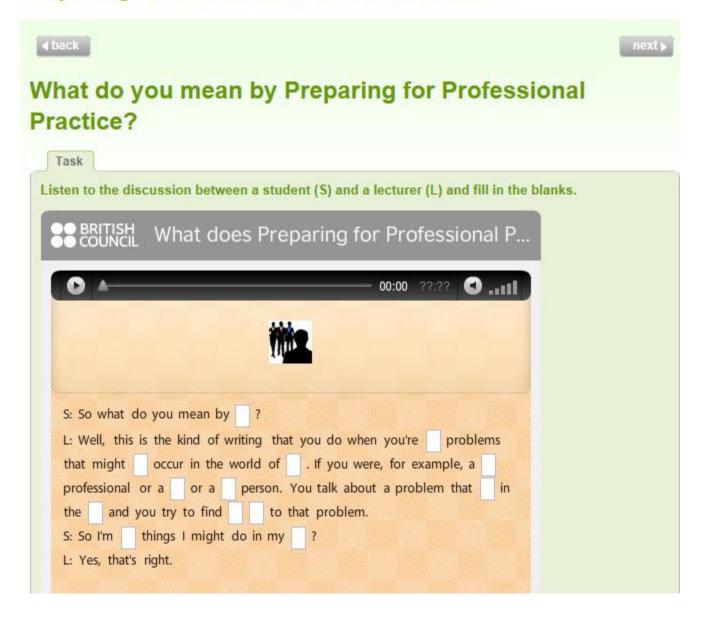
Primary Purposes: Tasks

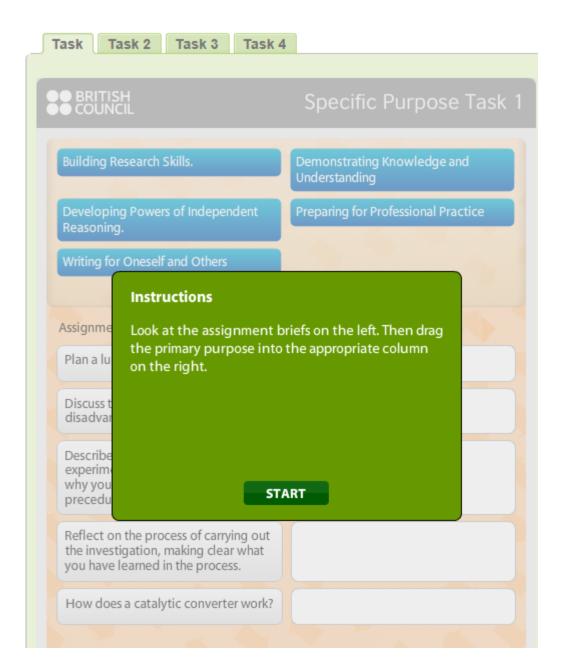


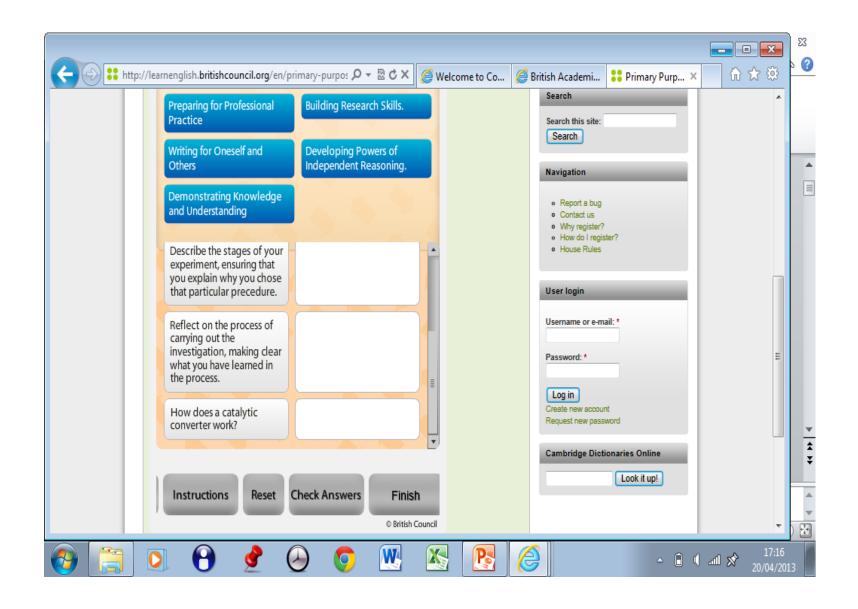
Tasks 1 - 4 will give you practice in understanding and remembering the 5 primary purposes. Task 2 Task 3 Task Task 4 BRITISH COUNCIL Purpose Task 1 Independent Reasoning Writing for Oneself & Others Professional Practice Knowledge & Understanding Research Skills



Preparing for Professional Practice: Listen







Writing for a Purpose

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 - Genre Families: Information
 - Genre Families: Descriptions
 - Genre Families: Assignment Brief
 - Genre Families: Specific Purpose
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The 'Genre Families' section describes and gives examples of each of the 13 genre families

Information and activities for individual genre families

Genre Families: Information

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We have identified 13 types of student writing. These types of writing are often referred to as genres or genre families.

The 13 genre families we have identified can be described as follows:

- In a Case Study, you focus on a particular organisation, industry or person (such as a patient) in order to describe it
 from a range of perspectives. You will conclude with recommendations for future action. Case Studies are particularly
 common in medicine and health disciplines, and in disciplines which involve business studies (for example agriculture,
 business, engineering, and hospitality, leisure and tourism).
- In Critiques, you will be expected to evaluate something such as a theory, a book or a piece of equipment. This will
 enable you to answer the question, "What is the value of x?" Critiques are common across the disciplines, to evaluate
 the writer's own work, and the work of others.
- In Design Specifications, you are expected to demonstrate your ability to develop a design for a product or procedure
 that could be manufactured or implemented. Design Specifications are particularly common in computer science and
 engineering.
- In Public Engagement, you will communicate your specialist disciplinary knowledge in forms such as newspaper
 articles or information leaflets. You will be expected to write in registers suitable for general rather than academic
 audiences. Public Engagement is particularly common in the sciences, but can be given as a writing task in any
 discipline.
- In Essays, you are expected to develop ideas, make connections between arguments and evidence and develop an
 individualised thesis. You will usually write these in response to a question given by your lecturer. Essays can be
 given as a writing task in any discipline.
- Exercise genres give you the opportunities to demonstrate your understanding, usually of basic skills and concepts.
 They are typically short numbered responses to questions. Exercises can be given as a writing task in any discipline, and are common in disciplines where students are required to perform mathematical calculations.
- In Explanations, you are required to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding and to answer questions. They
 are generally longer than exercises and additionally expect you to explain how something works or functions.

 Explanations can be given as a writing task in any discipline, but are particularly common in the Sciences.

The 'Writing Task' section has activities relating to each of the genre families

Your Writing Task



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If you have read the first four pages and done some of the exercises, you should understand about the 5 primary purposes of academic writing and the 13 genre familes.

You should now be able to choose the correct genre you need to use for your writing. If you are still not sure, read your question or assignment brief again. It might also be a good idea to talk to your lecturer.

What is your primary purpose?

If you have not read the first four pages and, therefore, cannot identify your primary purpose, we suggest that you have a look at those pages.

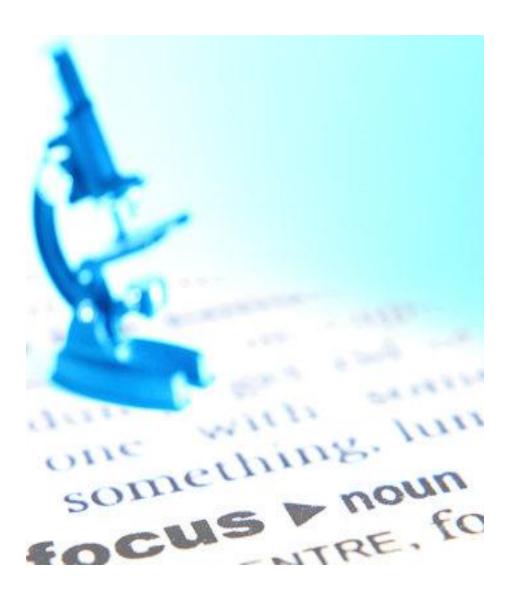


Writing for a Purpose

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 - Problem Questions
 - Proposals
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Audio and video clips, information about structure and vocabulary...

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 - Case Studies: Writing Process
 - ► Essay®
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 - Critiques
 - Design Specifications
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 - Public Engagement
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Information about stages and vocabulary, derived from examination of the corpus evidence.

The following sentences are taken from the introductory sections of Explanations.

- Match the sentences with their missing words.
- or missing mass, as it's often known, is matter that cannot be detected by observing the electromagnetic radiation. As it is not directly detectable this makes its quantities very difficult to measure. (dark matter)
- The has long legs, large pricked up ears, a long head and body, a straight belly and a distinctive red/ginger coat. Records show that this colour has not changed since the 1800s and importantly the coat prevents sunburn in summer. (Tamworth pig)
- The is considered to be a 'noble' grape for wine making. The fruit is small, yellow in colour but not very juicy.. (Riesling grape)
- One of the most easily recognised designs of the 20th Century is the, which almost anyone would recognise regardless of age, nationality or gender. (Coca-Cola bottle)
- is the art of sending secret messages. (cryptography)
- The is one of the greatest inventions in the field of Artificial Intelligence. Its appearance based on the human body. (humanoid robot)
- belong to the family of Orchidaceae. It is a unique group of plants that have over 800 genera and over 25000 species. (orchids)
- is a collection of diseases with the common features of uncontrolled cell growth followed by metastasis to surrounding tissues. (cancer)

Example information about structure.....

Explanations can begin in a number of different ways. Typically, the introductory section provides answers to one or more of the following questions:

- Why is it popular or well-known?
- Why is if it important to study it?
- What is problematic about it?
- What are its categories or components?
- What does it do?
- What is its history?

And accompanying tasks.....

Group the following passages according to which of these questions they answer:

- The Chrysler Building is a masterpiece of Art Deco design, built at a time when there was great competition in New York to build the tallest building.
- A clear understanding of the Nitrogen cycle would help to make a profitable use of fertilisers and manure, and reduce the nitrogen content in the water cycle and atmosphere.
- Breast cancer is the most common form of cancer found in women; it is on the increase and is therefore a serious concern. The lifetime risk of developing breast cancer is 1:11 for women and 1:1000 for men.
- There are four different kinds of teeth; the anterior peg-shaped incisors and dagger-shaped canines and the posterior broad, cusped, molars and pre-molars.

Indicating importance and significance

Choose words to fill the gaps in these sentences, taken from introductions to Explanations:

- The *commonest* molecular disease for the isochromosome of the long arm of the X chromosome is Turner syndrome.
- It is easy to forget that tyres are still a race car's biggest single performance variable.
- The Petronas Towers are currently the World's tallest buildings.
- Studies indicate that capuchins show the *highest* degree of manual prehension among new world primates.
- Some of the finest sweet wines of the world may be produced from Rieslings.
- NME started in 1952, making it the *oldest* existing music magazine.
- Perhaps the **strongest** form of evidence for the existence of dark matter is the rotation curves of galaxies.
- The 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami is perhaps the best example of the devastating effect of a strong tsunami.

Drag and Drop

- So far the most concerning spindle asymmetry is the involvement of heterotrimeric G proteins. (striking and exciting finding)
- One of the most in the physiological adjustment of the carp during anoxia is its capacity to acquire the little oxygen that is present in oxygen defiant water. (important factors)
- As one of the most proteins, Immunoglobulin G serves as a model for other immunoglobulins. (extensively studied)
- However, the most of Fgf-8 is in its involvement in AER derived mitogenic activity that regulates limb bud outgrowth. (striking role)
- ATP is the most of energy in the brain. (important form)
- This frame is the most in the design of modern vehicles.
 (widely used)

A Janus Moment

From more traditional CALL exercises

To more extended (still controlled) access to the corpus via corpus tools

From clusters to the Sketch Engine

Explaining cause, effect and significance	
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Links to the corpus

Clusters which commonly occur in specific disciplines and genres are first identified using Wordsmith Tools, then conflated, then found in Sketch Engine using corpus query language.

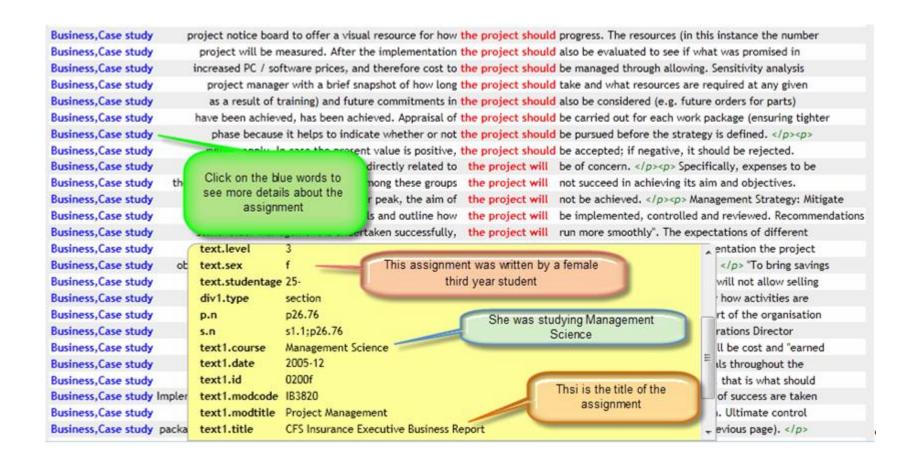
For example:

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Methodology Recount (the) aim of this experiment/report is/was

Case Study it is important / recommended / suggested / vital that
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The relevant page appears in a frame.

Navigation help provided



pusiness, case study Save Business, Case study Business, Case study View options KWIC Business, Case study Sentence Business, Case study Business, Case study Sort Business.Case study Left Business, Case study Right Business.Case study Node Business, Case study References Business, Case study Shuffle Business, Case study Sample Business, Case study Filter Business.Case study Frequency Business, Case study Node tags Business, Case study Node forms Business, Case study Doc IDs Business, Case study **Text Types** Business, Case study Collocations Business.Case study ConcDesc Business, Case study ? Business, Case study Business.Case study Business, Case study Business, Case study Menu position Business, Case study Impler Business, Case study

directly associated with the project so in necessary, the project can be detayed or cancelled in the CPI spirals out of the realisation phase. Ultimately at a higher pace, the project may encounter resistance. However at a slower pace there opportunity for interaction between activities. Although the project may be more difficult to manage with a parallel approach be defined. It must be taken into account how much the project may drift from its course when setting the review periods stakeholder groups, their interest / stake and influence on the project must be ascertained. This will enable the suitable method d) Implementation Pattern It is suggested that the project should adopt a progressive implementation pattern, with of Employee Support The initial notice regarding the project should be made known to all employees prior to informing project notice board to offer a visual resource for how the project should progress. The resources (in this instance the number project will be measured. After the implementation the project should also be evaluated to see if what was promised in increased PC / software prices, and therefore cost to the project should be managed through allowing. Sensitivity analysis project manager with a brief snapshot of how long the project should take and what resources are required at any given as a result of training) and future commitments in the project should also be considered (e.g., future orders for parts) have been achieved, has been achieved. Appraisal of the project should be carried out for each work package (ensuring tighter phase because it helps to indicate whether or not the project should be pursued before the strategy is defined, rule to apply. In case the present value is positive, the project should be accepted; if negative, it should be rejected. Generally only costs that are directly related to the project will be of concern. Specifically, expenses to be themselves. Without the cooperation among these groups the project will not succeed in achieving its aim and objectives. unsatisfied and don't perform at their peak, the aim of the project will not be achieved. Management Strategy: Mitigate thorough analysis of these proposals and outline how the project will be implemented, controlled and reviewed. Recommendations stakeholder management is undertaken successfully, the project will run more smoothly". The expectations of different do, how it is going to do it and how the outcome of the project will be measured. After the implementation the project objectives and evaluation. The project aim defines what the project will do and why. The project aim is: be considered to ensure that it is made clear ne project will and will not cover. The project will not allow selling activities The pat oject will be conducted, more specifically how activities are Click on the red words to oject will implement change to a large part of the organisation the organisation see more context Strategic control Th roject will be the responsibility of the Operations Director Ill be cost and "earned × ils throughout the < expand left a failure to define properly the purposes and nature of the project". <p> Wheeler, that is what should Richard. J, (2005), page 17 It must be clear what the project is going to do, how it is going to of success are taken do it and how the outcome of the project will be measured. After the implementation the project . Ultimate control should also be evaluated to see if what was promised in the beginning was actually delivered. p The definition of the CFS Insurance project is 3 fold; aim, objectives and evaluation. The project aim Business, Case study packa evious page). defines what the project will do and why. The project aim is: "To bring savings in operational project's length

costs and to increase profits, by increasing employee flexibility, commitment to teamwork and improved customer service through the multipurpose teams and the implementation of internet connectivity" The objectives are a more detailed set of statements of what the project is going to deliver. The objectives should be SMART to ensure a focus on what is pertinent and facilitate a thorough evaluation of the project. Evaluation will allow for further improvement and also helps to ascertain if objectives set out at expand right >

standardised process

ly one multipurpose

ner. Project Mandate

uld be i.e. budgeting

(?)

Save
View options
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Sentence
Sort
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to put the blue words in alphabetical order

Click on 'References'

Text Types
Collocations
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Menu position

Agriculture, Methodology recount Agriculture, Methodology recount Anthropology, Methodology recount Anthropology, Methodology recount Archaeology, Methodology recount Biological Sciences, Methodology recount Biological Sciences, Methodology recount ogical Sciences, Methodology recount logical Sciences. Methodology recount logical Sciences, Methodology recount ological Sciences, Methodology recount Biological Sciences, Methodology recount Chemistry, Methodology recount

Chemistry, Methodology recount

Chemistry, Methodology recount

Chemistry, Methodology recount

levels of TV viewing From the graph and table above significant difference between the diets. However, too short to give an accurate representation, and but as my observations focused on amounts of time, animals has not been determined in either assemblage. substitution of one for the other. As Sillar remarks " attempting the interpretation of the sequence as a whole, exact location of the deposit sampled is unknown so However, in order to conduct a thorough investigation with descriptions of known examples of oven plaster in still or slow moving muddy water (ibid.:29) so displa in the shells of land and freshwater snails. examination and referral to refer microso bein

The lines on this page have been sorted so that the disciplines are listed in alphabetical order

lated value, but closer to the value meaning for structural proteins that make up the virion, so looking at one effect pollution can have on a stream single BEV growth cycle should be apparent. Therefore the final stage of this procedure was carried out. the cell and separating the subcellular compartments taking this figure away from the other recordings, taking this figure away from the other recordings, plus maltose is identical to that of lysozyme alone. for eighteen hours for data set A is anomalous as the numerous procedures involved in this experiment, reaction was stopped at the appropriate time interval, adding the casein to each of the buffer solutions if which the samples started growing on different plates spectral evidence of sulphur associated to the metal: exists in a square planar arrangement, From this From a plot of quantum yield vs. wavelength oxidation state of () to the metal centre. In the complex,

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medium TV watchers have the highest average expenditure judge any correlation between the saturation and make statistically valid interpretations of data. include the 'not visible' category. Another tell which sex has been kept to adulthood. If animal overexploit the use of dung as a resource" given assess the comparability of the different samples identify the context or phase to which it belongs move between scales of interpretation. This process infer that this is an oven plaster aggregate. expect a suitable niche to exist in a marshland environment identify the gastropoda to species level; each species identify all molluscs present within the assemblage the bacteria could grow earlier on some plates than the genes allowing growth to occur by transferring the temperature at which alkaline phosphotase carries the lowest molarity of phosphate which will inhibit immunoblotting and gel electrophoresis are powerful the Lake is in the same condition as the two streams the streams and lake are in the same state, however compare the two values, The catalytic activity be due to chance, and closer to the expected ratio find genes for two neck/collar proteins and a tail assume that a form of pollution may be present in some of the BHK21 cells were more efficient at replicating some RNA polymerase may have been washed away leading examine the metabolic pathways. Differential centrifugation discover the absorbance for ovalbumin alone. discover the absorbance for ovalbumin alone, assume that maltose is not affecting the crystal a high proportion of the BHK21 cells were so inefficient avoid contamination and minor errors that carried separate the substrate and its hydrolysed form (product a precipitation had formed and that the degree of map the order in which the genes had been transferred one ligand is nitrogen associated and the other thiocyanate steric factors out weigh the benefits of the low upto an approximate value of λ=390nm, the quantum consider the ligands as neutral and then to begin

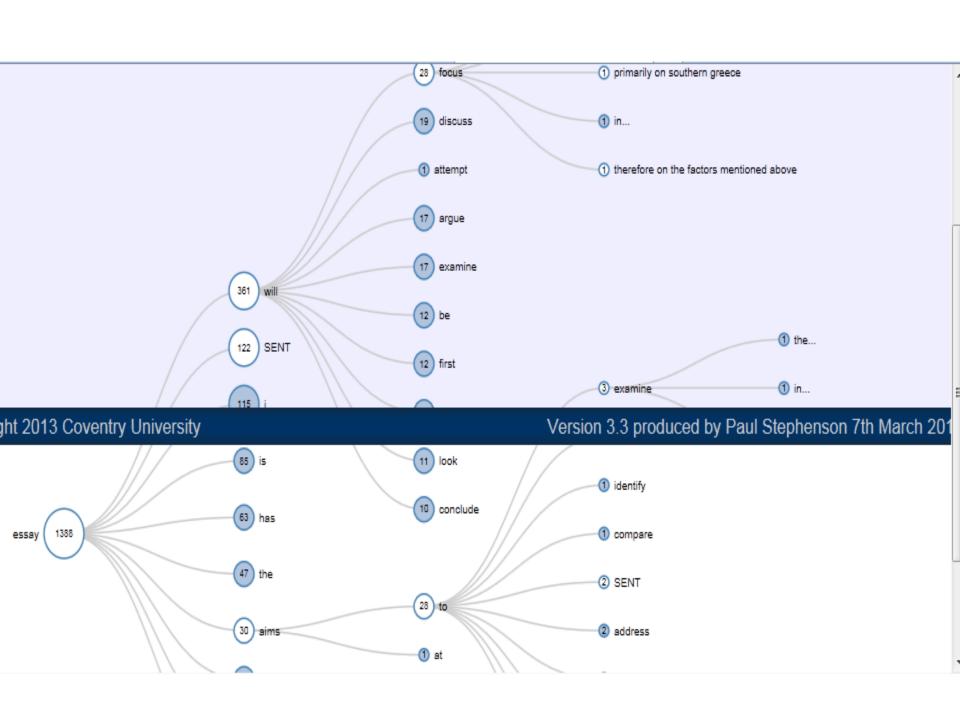
Links to the Wordtree

http://wordtree.coventry.ac.uk/BAWE



British Academic Written English Corpus

Corpus	BAWE
discipline	ANY σ
genre_family	
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Word	ANY ▼ essay
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CALL activities check understanding of corpus evidence

For example

- Which of the following verbs does <u>not</u> occur after 'in this essay I will....'
- Which of the following sentences express the writer's personal opinion, and which express the opinion of others?

etc.

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Model texts. Word lists.
Information about the distribution of genre families, citation practices etc within each discipline and disciplinary group.



The British Council's promotional material for the launch – at the ELTONs