University of Houston ◢ Clear Lake

WRITING CENTER
Helpful Websites for Writers

UHCL Campus Resources

Library Course Guides

https://uhcl.libguides.com/sb.php?subject_id=53469

These subject-specific course guides have recommended databases for finding journal articles, other useful sources for research, and the contact information for the subject research librarian who is available to meet with students for one-on-one research assistance. If your specific course is not listed, use the drop-down at the top of the page to select a subject.

If you struggle to use the library website and databases, check out these tutorials: https://uhcl.libguides.com/libinstvideos

Career Services

https://www.uhcl.edu/career-services/

The career counselors can help you with your resumé and cover letter questions as well as other services offered such as mock interviews and career exploration.

Counseling Services

https://www.uhcl.edu/counseling-services/

Feeling stressed or overwhelmed by your writing assignments? The trained professionals at the counseling center can help you explore stress-reducing strategies.

Sources and Documentation

Purdue OWL

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/

Purdue University's comprehensive writing website provides useful information for all writing, documentation and formatting needs.

Citation Machine

http://www.citationmachine.net

Citation machine offers a fill-in-the-blank form that helps writers with in-text citations and reference or works cited pages for APA, Chicago/Turabian, and MLA.

NOTE: *All citations should be reviewed with official documentation guides to assure correctness.*

Zotero

https://www.zotero.org/support/quick_start_guide

Zotero is a free, open-source document sorting software that will also create a bibliography and in-text citations. There are extensions for Word and Google Docs as well as "connectors" to save articles to the software from any browser. Zotero is great for large-scale research projects with many references. Contact the UHCL research librarians for assistance setting up and using Zotero.

Google Scholar

https://scholar.google.com/

Google scholar is a user-friendly search engine for scholarly articles and case law. It is a good resource if you are having trouble using the UHCL library databases; however, it does not have an advance search function to narrow down your choices like the databases.

General Writing Assistance

Grammarly

https://www.grammarly.com/

Grammarly is a grammar, spelling, and plagiarism checking software. It offers free and paid service levels.

NOTE: Grammarly may give incorrect or unnecessary suggestions. If you are unsure whether Grammarly's suggestions are useful for your essay, consult with a writing tutor.

GrammarBook

https://www.grammarbook.com/

GrammarBook is a comprehensive website that explains grammar and punctuation rules. It also offers quizzes and the option to order the print version of the GrammarBook.

OneLook Thesaurus

https://www.onelook.com/reverse-dictionary.shtml

The OneLook reverse dictionary will take any word or phrase and find close matches. Unlike other online thesauruses, OneLook works well with phrases, so if you forget the word for "not on purpose" you can type it in and the first result will be "accidental."

Typing.com

https://www.typing.com/student/lessons

If you wish you could type faster so you can complete writing assignments faster, this website offers lessons and games to practice ten-finger typing skills.

Multi-media Resources

Canva

https://www.canva.com/

Canva is a free drag-and-drop design website where you can create eye-catching flyers, slide show backgrounds, social media posts, and much more. Basic design is free and there are paid options for certain design elements (some may be available for free with a Canva watermark).

Wikimedia Commons

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page

Wikimedia Commons is an excellent resource for free-to-use media including pictures, sounds, and videos. All resources on this website are either under Creative Commons licenses or in the public domain.

Scientific Writing Resources

Step-by-Step Guide

https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/bes2.1258

This journal article serves as a comprehensive guide for writing biological lab reports and journal articles. It has useful organizational tips that can be applied to other scientific disciplines.

Abbreviation Finder

https://www.issn.org/services/online-services/access-to-the-ltwa/

The LTWA has official scientific abbreviations for most words according to the ISO 4. This is useful for citation styles that require journal name abbreviations in the references page.