



THE UNIVERSITY  
*of* NORTH CAROLINA  
*at* CHAPEL HILL

# Strategies for Supporting International Students

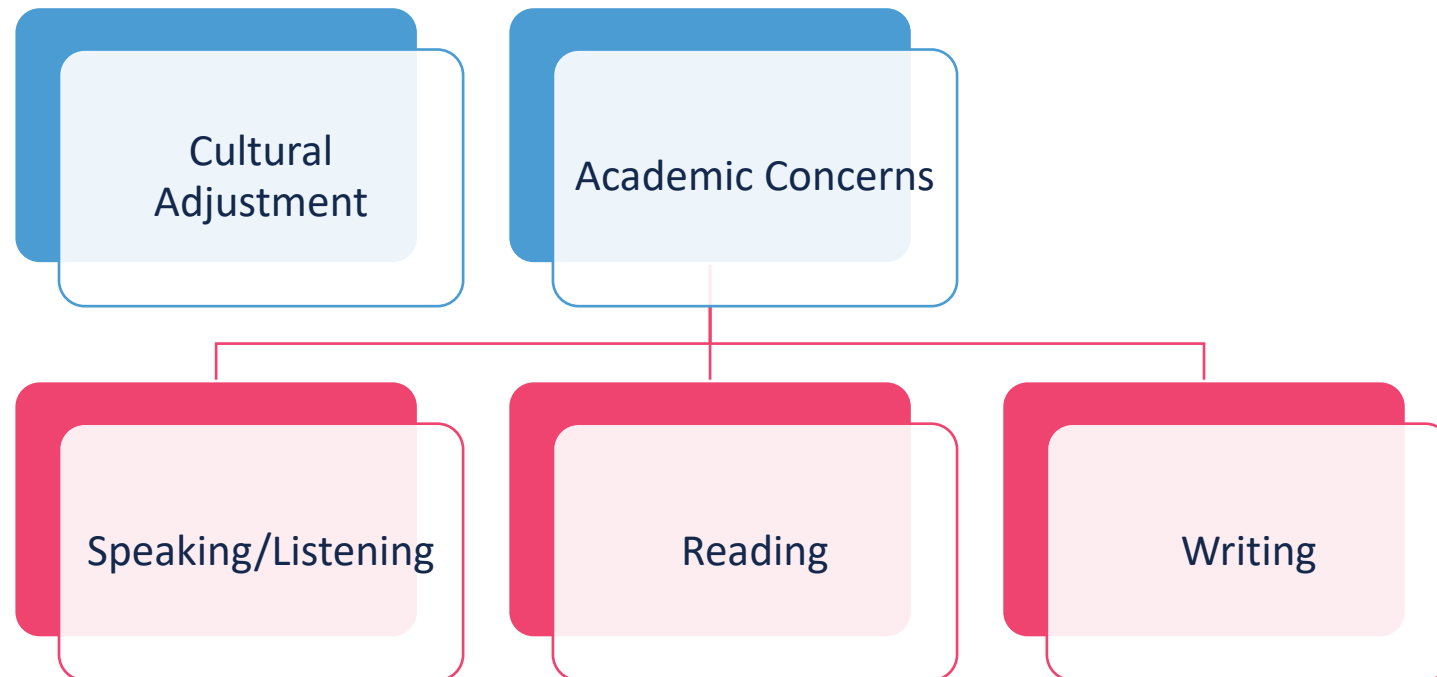
Gigi Taylor, PhD

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UNC Writing Center

May 24, 2023

# Agenda



# Culture and Community

[Mentors and Senior Students](#)

[CAPS](#)

[International Student Support Group](#)

[Global Grads](#)

[ISSS Events](#)

[Speaking Group](#)

[Wellness Coaching](#)





## ACADEMIC CONCERNS

# Speaking/Listening

- Slow down and speak clearly
- Model inviting input
- Prep time for discussions
  - Sharing slides in advance
  - Ask students to prepare 3 questions
  - Provide discussion questions in advance
- Enable captioning & allow recording



## ACADEMIC CONCERNS





# Reading

- What genres do students read in your program?
  - What's most important?
  - Where is it found?
- Reading surgically
  - Purpose?
  - Skimming
- Jigsaw reading assignments



<https://learningcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/>

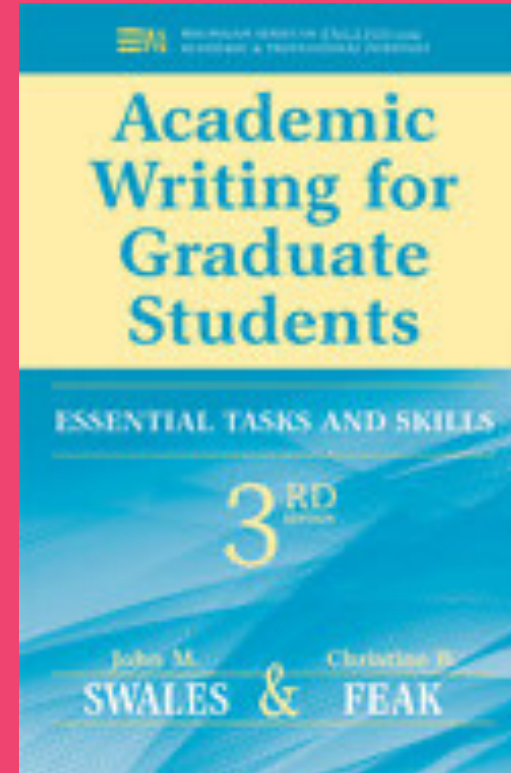
## Read Better

- > [Annotating Texts](#)
- > [Diagrams and Graphs](#)
- > [Highlighting: The User's Guide](#)
- > [Note-Taking Template for Journal Articles](#) 
- > [Reading Comprehension Tips](#)
- > [Reading in the Social Sciences](#)
- > [Reading Journal Articles](#)
- > [Reading Math Textbooks](#)
- > [Reading Strategies Self-Assessment](#) 
- > [Reading Textbooks Effectively](#)
- > [Reading Template](#) 
- > [Reading to Write](#)
- > [Skimming](#)
- > [Taking Notes While Reading](#)
- > [Taking Notes While Reading Video](#) 
- > [Watching Film](#)

## ACADEMIC CONCERNS

# Writing: Genre Awareness

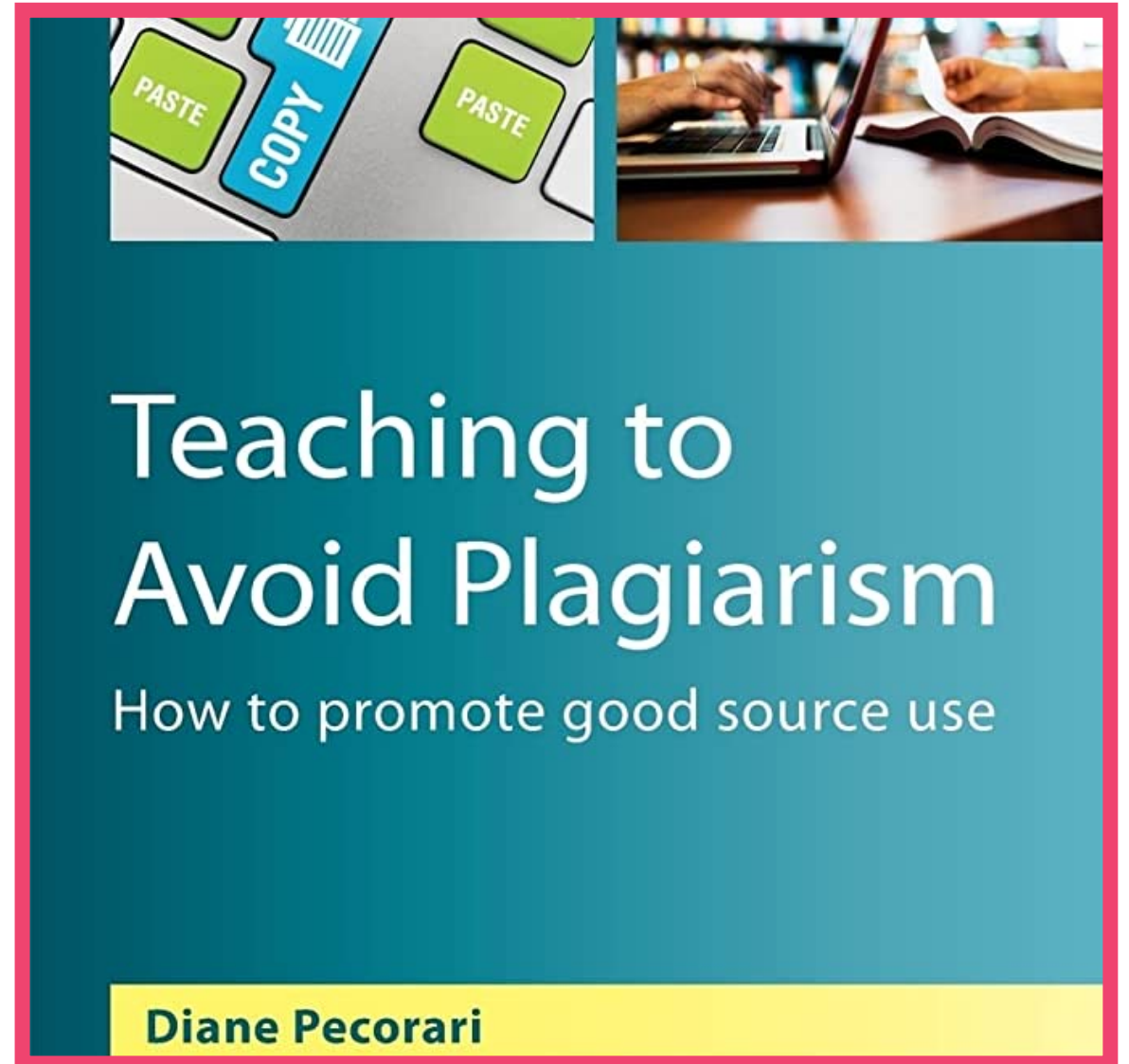
- Analysis: What are the moves?
- CARS Model (Research Intros)
  - Establishing the territory
  - Identifying niche
  - Occupying the niche
- Help students see the genre conventions of your assignments.



## ACADEMIC CONCERNS

# Writing: Source Use

- Writing as disciplinary conversation
  - Camps & controversies
  - How to engage?
- Transparency
  - Identify source
  - Fair and accurate
  - Whose words are whose?
- Avoid patchwriting



## ACADEMIC CONCERNS

# Paraphrasing is HARD!

- Understanding meaning of words and sentences in context
- Identifying technical vocabulary (can't be replaced)
- Identifying common vocabulary (can't be copied in large chunks)
- Selecting vocabulary and grammatical structures to rephrase ideas without changing the meaning
- Using dictionaries/thesauruses to confirm the accuracy of synonym choices (or misrepresent the source)
- Integrating paraphrases appropriately and grammatically
- Citing sources with correct citation formats





## ACADEMIC CONCERNS

# Writing: Purpose?

- Demonstrating knowledge?
- Critical engagement w/field?
- Getting published?

## ACADEMIC CONCERNS

# Writing: Error Gravity

- Low gravity: noticeable, but doesn't impede comprehension
- High gravity: seriously impedes comprehension
- Gravel vs. boulders



# Writing: Reading Through Accent

Conventionally all mothers are full-time homemakers and only do other work in or near their home so that their child will never out of sight. But around 7 decades ago, women including mothers in European country start entered the workforce together with men. Today, due to the high living cost especially in big cities, it is common to see mother working whether as a teachers, doctors or even engineers! Their contribution to the world should not be a question anymore. By the end of 20th century there are a lot of women right movement give supports to working women. However, there are also people oppose working mothers. One of their points is that working mothers will leave negative effect to the children. Is it true? Some people also argue the ability of mother who entered workforce. I at first also think that mothers are better not to work but after doing some research by interviewing and reading articles about my mother I changed my mind.

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Because of the prolonged life expectancy, the number of the elderly population has increased. In the US, it will be 70 million people of over 65 years older adults by 2030, accounting almost 25% of the elderly population (Strait & Lakatta, 2012). As people aging, progressive aging processes could be result in various kinds of complicated health problems that increase the mortality and morbidity of chronic illnesses, such as hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and mental disorder (Gale, Allerhand, & Deary, 2012; Strait & Lakatta, 2012). It is highly vulnerable to develop mental health, such as depressive disorders for older adults' population (Fiske, Wethrell, & Gatz, 2009). The most common mental health problems for the older adults including depression, anxiety, and negative emotions. According to the World Health Organization, one of the strategies focuses on improving the psychological health of older adults' populations (WHO, 2015). Previous research found between 20% and 50% of older adults with chronic diseases, have significant symptoms of depression (Djernes, 2006; Mcevoy & Barnes, 2007). Therefore, improving mental health and well-being of older adults have become one of the most important concerns of health care professionals.

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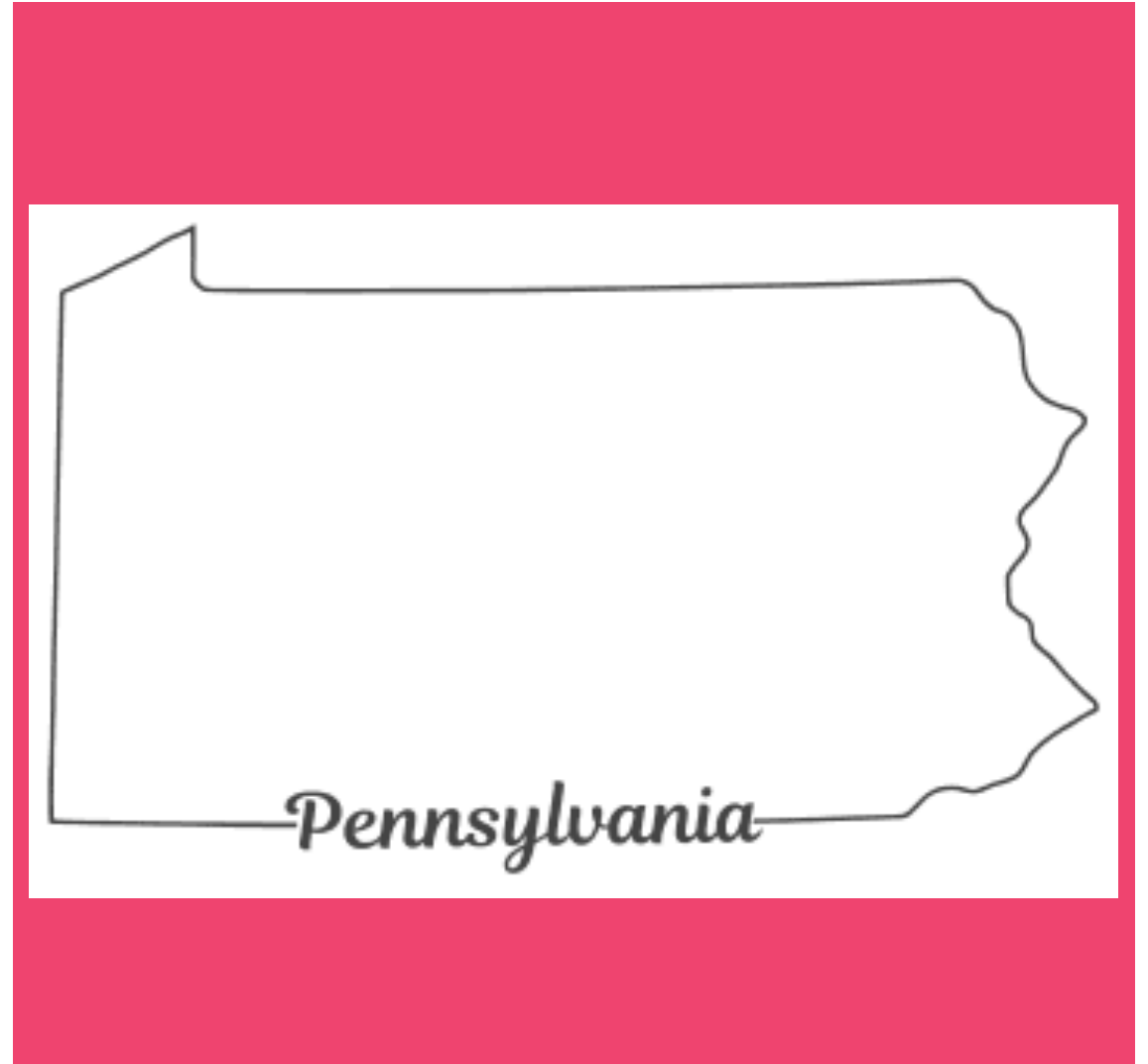
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## ACADEMIC CONCERNS

# Writing: Giving Feedback

- PA OIL
  - Point
  - Assignment
  - Organization
  - Interesting?
  - Language
- Reader response: thinking, feeling, questions while reading



## RESOURCES

Conference on College Composition and Communication. (2020). *CCCC statement on second language writing and multilingual writers*. <https://cccc.ncte.org/cccc/resources/positions/secondlangwriting>

Cox, M. & Myers Zawacki, T. (2014). *WAC and second language writers: Research towards linguistically and culturally inclusive programs and practices*. Fort Collins, CO: The WAC Clearinghouse. <https://wac.colostate.edu/books/perspectives/l2/>

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