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**Interview and Reflection about Academic Writing in the Disciplines**

As we know, academic writing is very important and necessary for international students who are enrolling at American universities for higher education, because they have to write papers in their major and further career, although it is difficult for international students to grasp strong writing skills when they arrive at a strange country. Thus, in order to learn more about research and writing in the discipline and improve my poor writing abilities, I had a chance to interview a graduate student who are good at academic writing in the major of Statistical Science. His name is Kangjun Wu. He completed his undergraduate degree at Zhongnan University of Economics and Law in Statistics; and he entered Rutgers University to continue his master education in the same major.

This interview mainly focused on the types of papers and conventions of writing in the discipline with interviewee’s experience. At the beginning, Kangjun introduced statistics, which is one part of engineering science, is the discipline that requires students to deal with data and analyze. And there are three important conventions of writing in the field.

First, when students writing statistical paper, it is always including at least one trial to collect, analyze and predict data. Therefore, there will be several tables and graphs which need us to notice. And students have to make sure the location, title name and typeface are formal and in accordance with requirement in the discipline.

Second, statistical paper follows the pattern, which consisted of introduction, methods, results and discussion. And it also requires abstract first which is typical in engineering field. What’s more, the papers will include tests which are to prove or support the main idea in the sections of methods and results, so students need pay more attention to the verb tenses between these parts, which usually uses the past tense.

Third and most important, statistical papers use a special citation style, which called IEEE. This style suits for the field of sciences and engineering. So when students writing papers, they have to read and follow the rules in IEEE citation style. According to Kangjun, “At the beginning of my study abroad, the most difficult part for me is how to quote other researchers’ idea correctly and paraphrase suitably”. When preparing his first paper, he got a low grade because he did not care much about the citation and paraphrasing. Thus, combining Kangjun’s experience, students major in statistics should understand and grasp the IEEE citation to avoid plagiarism.

For recommendation, Kangjun gave some suggestions to improve writing skills in statistics field. He proposed that students have to read the guide book of writing papers, to ensure they understand the requirements in graphs, tables, verb tense and citation. Also, he recommended one book which called “IEEE EDITORIAL STYLE MANUAL”; it introduces the concepts of IEEE citation completely, which will help students to understand how to cite correct in the discipline. Particularly, Kangjun introduce some ways to avoid plagiarism by paraphrasing references. First, expand the database of vocabulary, especially synonyms. Once students want to paraphrase sentences, they can place words by their synonyms. Second, while paraphrasing, students need to read and understand whole sentences, summarize the main idea by writing key words, and try to rewrite it in one sentence. Third, remember try to change the structure of the sentences. With the help of practicing to paraphrase sentences by these steps, international students will improve their academic writing.

To sum up, I have learned lots of writing skills which are very helpful for my future papers from this interview. I could understand the patterns of the papers, conventions of this discipline, standard of IEEE citation and steps of paraphrasing to avoid plagiarism. Moreover, the field of statistics and academic writing has a close connection. Academic writing plays an important role in statistics. In my field, I need to understand how to collect and analyze data in papers, and I can follow the direct guide, such as IEEE citation, structure of tables and graphs, to improve my writing skills. So that I will have a deep understanding of my major, good writing skills, and perfect preparation for my further study and future career.