

## **Political Science Writing**

Information collected and annotations written by Julie Schwarz

### **Articles**

All articles can be found on the Simmons Library website under the search engine: Education Abstracts and Full Text Journals.

Clifford, Bob. "A Question and an Argument: Enhancing Student Writing through Guided Research Assignments" PS: Political Science & Politics 34.3 (Sept. 2001): 653-655

Summary: The pros of giving students very specific topics to write about and tips on how to respond to get stronger second and final drafts. Geared toward instructors but the information is helpful to all.

Hammer, Dean C. "Giving Flesh to Ideas: Constructing a Cultural Dialogue." PS: Political Science & Politics 27.2 (June 1994): 259-262.

Summary: One professor's unique approach to assigning a paper to his Political Science class in which the student must create a conversation between two thinkers.

King, Charles. "Battling the Six Evil Geniuses of Essay Writing." PS: Political Science & Politics 31.3 (Mar. 1998): 59-63.

Summary: Humorously written, but very useful for both the student as well as the instructor in recognizing, avoiding and responding to basic writing traps that we all fall into.

Londow, David Z. "Writing in Political Science: A Brief Guide to Resources." PS: Political Science & Politics 26.3 (Sept. 1993): 529-534.

Summary: Some excellent resources for the Political Science instructor as well as the student. Article is broken down into useful categories (professional references, student texts, etc.), but there are some overlapping books and articles.

Sherman, Daniel J. and Israel Waismel-Manor. "Get it in Writing: Using Politics to Teach Writing and Writing to Teach Politics." PS: Political Science & Politics 36.4 (Oct 2003): 755-763.

Summary: The discussion of 2 semester-long projects given to one class. The projects include the use of popular culture, multiple writing projects, and a variety of writing styles.

Wolfinger, Raymond E. "Tips for Writing Papers" PS: Political Science & Politics 26.1 (March 1993): 87-90

Summary: Basic writing tips but biased towards the Political Science writer.

Zeiser, Pamela A. "Teaching Process and Product: Crafting and Responding to Student Writing Assignments." PS: Political Science & Politics 32.3 (Sept 1999): 593.

Summary: Outlines the basics for paper writing, including crafting and responding. Geared mainly toward instructors, but there is some good info for

students here.

## **Books**

Becker, Howard Saul. Writing for Social Scientists. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1986. **Call# H91.B41986** ISBN 022604108

Summary: This is not the best resource, as it is almost 20 years old. The info is good for a basic paper in Poli Sci. Since it is the only book the Simmons Library has on this topic, it is being included.

Biddle, Arthur W., Kenneth M. Holland. Writer's Guide: Political Science (Heath Writing Across the Curriculum Series.). Washington D.C.: Heath, 1987. ISBN: 0669117781

Summary: While an older book, this is still a good one to consult. There are samples of letters, petitions, and research proposals (both good and bad). The Concise Guide to Usage, which is chapter 9, is a goldmine for brief help on grammar and style.

Edwards, Anne Michaels. Writing to Learn in Political Science. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2001. ISBN 0072437804

Summary: This book has chapters that offer step-by-step guides to writing for understanding, application, analysis, argument, etc. It includes a sample of student writing. The glossary is very pertinent and up-to-date, defining important vocabulary for political science writers.

Farlow, Daniel E. Writing a Research Paper in Political Science. Scott, Foresman, 1989. ISBN 0673498530

Summary: A very basic and small guide (only 30 pages). The info is important, but it's not graphically the best. It works well as handout material. Sample student paper included at the end.

Lamm, Kathryn. 10,000 Ideas for Term Papers, Projects, Reports, and Speeches (5<sup>th</sup> edition). New York, NY: MacMillan, 1998. ISBN: 0-02-862512-9

Summary: True to its name, this book is full of ideas. Symbols by the topics indicate if the idea is difficult, may require prior knowledge, needs examples, etc. Topic ideas specific to Poli. Sci. can be found in the Government (202), Foreign Policy (178), History-United States: Social History (247) and Politics (346) sections.

Scott, Gregory M., Garrison, Stephen M. The Political Science Student Writer's Manual. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2002. ISBN 0130606340

Summary: This is a very comprehensive and readable book. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> edition so it has really been honed to appeal to the student and teacher alike. Includes a chapter on source citing as well as internet resources. Easy to dip in and out of for specific information, and includes paper samples and ideas for assignments like policy analyses, case briefs and public opinion survey papers.

Schmidt, Diane E. Expository Writing in Political Science: A Practical Guide. New York, NY: Harper Collins College Publishers, 1993. ISBN: 0-06-500816-2

Summary: While not as terrific as her most recent writing guide, this is still a good resource. Contains basic info for the Poli Sci writer, of special note is the final chapter on how to write letters of introduction and resumes. I recommend this book be used in tandem with her other book.

Schmidt, Diane E. Writing in Political Science A Practical Guide (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.). New York, NY: Harper Collins College Publishers, 2005. ISBN: 0321217357

Summary: The best writing resource I have found, especially for faculty dealing with young majors as well as beginning Poli Sci writers. This book includes writing activities, formats and examples of strong research papers and a section on what a Political Science writer's bookshelf should contain. Written with a sense of humor and is very up to date.

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