

FMS1203S: Randomness in scientific thinking

Week 13

Final Assignment

- ▶ Write an essay on the topics you have presented in the semester (maximum two pages excluding the references).
- ▶ The essay should consists of INTRODUCTION, MAIN BODY, CONCLUSION and REFERENCES. The main body can itself consist of logically related parts or sections.
- ▶ In the essay, you should give a brief review on the topics you have presented. The major points of each topic should be discussed, though not in detail.
- ▶ The essay should also include your reflection and your comments on those topics.
- ▶ The essay should be written with a scientific writing style.
- ▶ The completed essay should be submitted to IVLE folder: student submission/final report by 17:00, April 19, Wednesday.

Scientific Writing Style

- ▶ Different scientific fields have different conventions on writing.
- ▶ Individual journals within a field usually have their own style guides, for instance,
<http://www.nature.com/nature/authors/gta/>
- ▶ Some style guides recommend against use of the passive voice, while some encourage it.
- ▶ In some fields, it is customary to report in the present tense (for example, in mathematical sciences), whereas some fields recommend past tense.

Scientific Writing Style

- ▶ Common features of scientific writing:
 - ▶ Plain and accurate (rather than rhetorical flourishes).
 - ▶ Clear and concise.
 - ▶ Order and organization.
 - ▶ Write in complete sentences.
 - ▶ Every paragraph has a topic sentence and the paragraph content supports the topic.
 - ▶ Do not use colloquial speech, slang, or "childish" words or phrases.
 - ▶ Do not use contractions: for example, "don't" must be "do not" and "isn't" must be "is not" etc.

References and Plagiarism

- ▶ References to other works are an integral component of any research paper.
- ▶ The usual practice to make an reference to a work is to summarize the finding or other information in your own words and then cite the source.
- ▶ Any ideas or other information that are not your own must be substantiated by a reference.
- ▶ The source of cited works should be given in detail in the section REFERENCES.
- ▶ Plagiarism:
 - ▶ Use of others' words, ideas, images, etc. without citation is considered as plagiarism.
 - ▶ Paraphrasing other's words too closely may also be construed as plagiarism in some circumstances.
 - ▶ Plagiarism can be easily avoided by adequately referencing any and all information you use from other sources.