Academic Language & Literacy Help Available to you

English Language Education

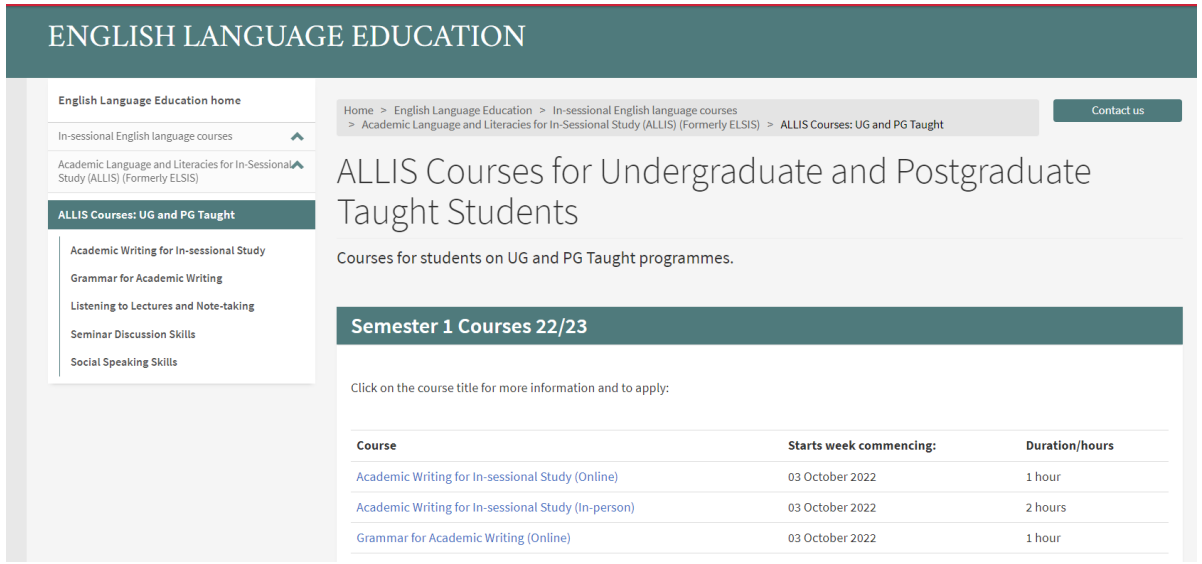
1 English Language Education

2 Institute for Academic Development

3 External

English Language Education (ELE)

https://www.ed.ac.uk/english-language-teaching



Academic Language and Literacies for In-Sessional Study (ALLIS)

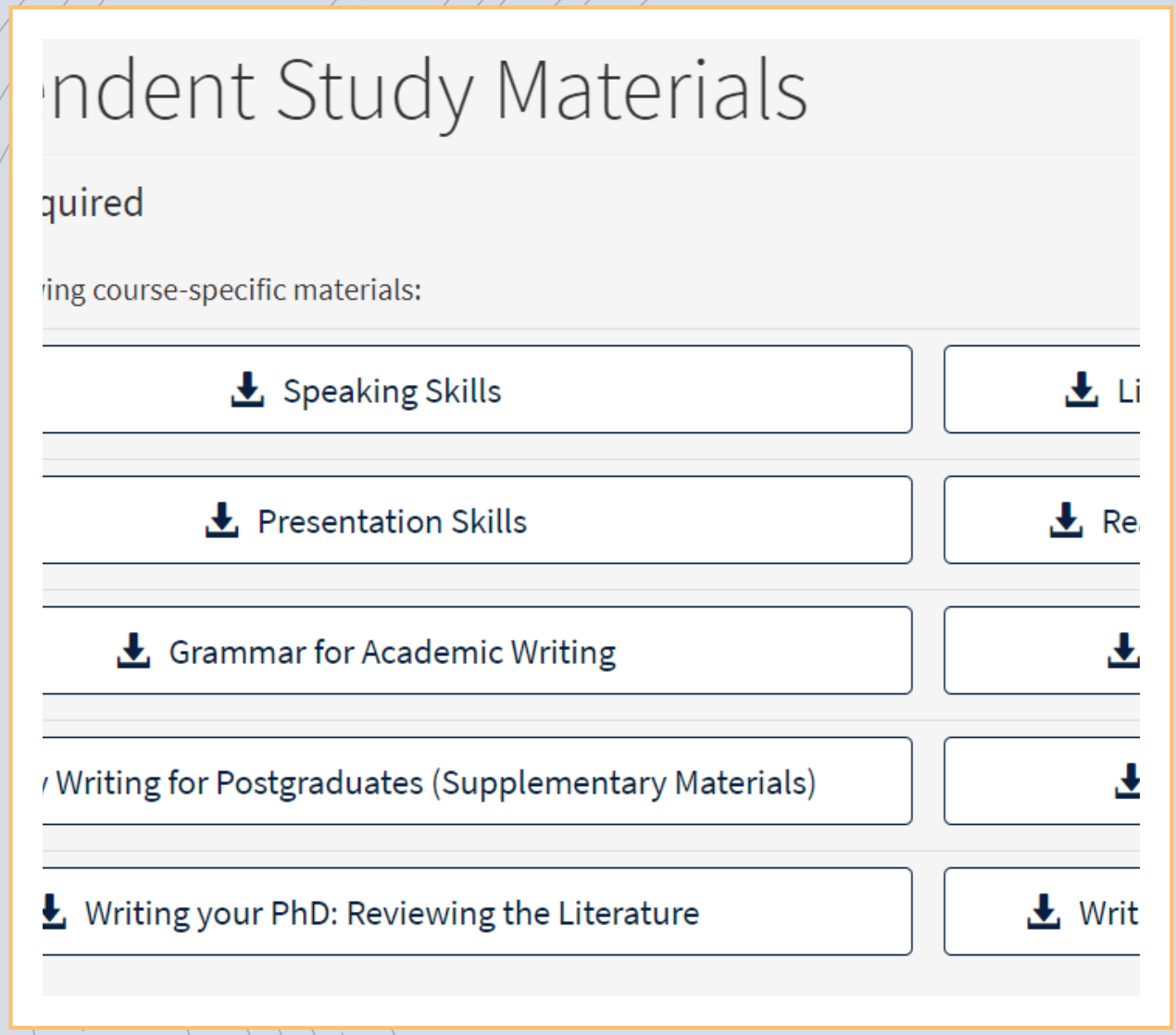
- Academic Writing for International Students
- Grammar for Academic Writing [In-person & Online]
- Seminar Discussion Skills [In-person **ONLY**]

https://www.ed.ac.uk/english-language-teaching/insession-courses/elsis

Academic Language and Literacies for In-sessional Study (ALLIS)

- The courses are free of charge and non-credit bearing.
- Courses are 4 weeks (2 each in Semesters 1 and 2)
- Places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.
- All our teachers are very experienced in teaching English for academic purposes and working with international students from different disciplines.

https://www.ed.ac.uk/english-language-teaching/insession-courses/elsis



Academic Language and Literacies for In-Sessional Study (ALLIS)

What if I don't get a place on an ALLIS course?

Where available, take advantage of our **Independent Study Materials**

or

Reapply for a course in Semester 2

https://www.ed.ac.uk/english-language-teaching/ele-courses/elsis/independent-study-materials

[EASE Login required]

Graduate Writing Centre

- Need help with your writing at any time of the semester?
- You can receive one-to-one consultations in an online academic writing tutorial (45 minutes) for postgraduate (PGT & PGR) international students.
- Booking is via MyEd.

https://www.ed.ac.uk/english-language-teaching/insession-courses/graduate-writing-centre

Graduate Writing Centre

- October 2022 – December 2023
- Provide 350 max word sample
- Provide a question for discussion
- NOT a proofreading service!!
- Booking is via the Events channel in MyEd.

https://www.ed.ac.uk/english-language-teaching/insession-courses/graduate-writing-centre

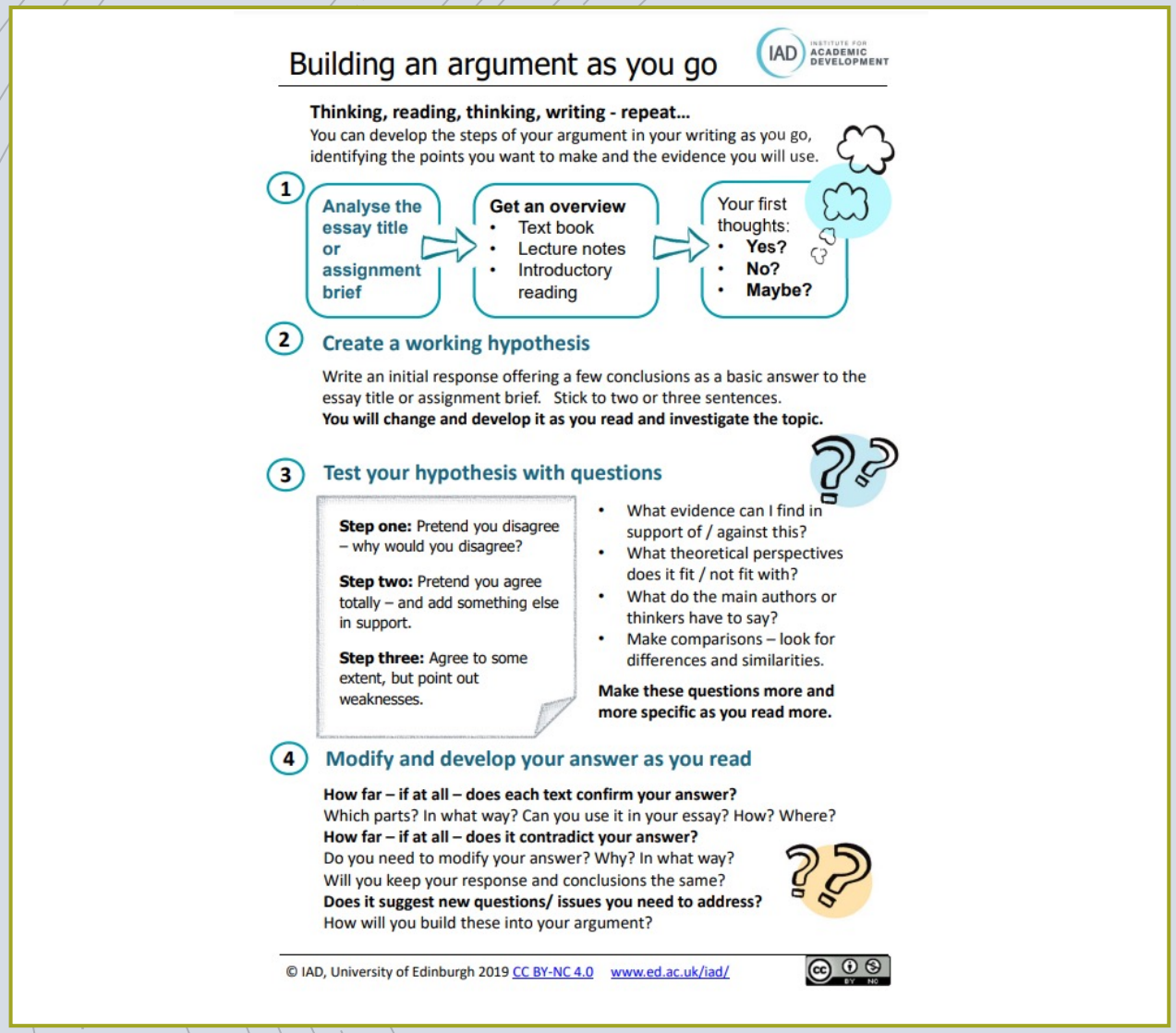
Contact English Language Education (ELE)

Tel.: +44 (0)131 650 4400

Email: eleinfo@ed.ac.uk

The University of Edinburgh
Centre for Open Learning
Paterson's Land
Holyrood Road
Edinburgh
EH8 8AQ

Institute for Academic Development (IAD)
https://www.ed.ac.uk/institute-academic-development/study-hub



Building an argument as you go

IAD INSTITUTE FOR ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT

Thinking, reading, thinking, writing - repeat…

You can develop the steps of your argument in your writing as you go, identifying the points you want to make and the evidence you will use.

1

Analyse the essay title or assignment brief

Get an overview
- Text book
- Lecture notes
- Introductory reading

Your first thoughts:
- **Yes?**
- **No?**
- **Maybe?**

2 Create a working hypothesis

Write an initial response offering a few conclusions as a basic answer to the essay title or assignment brief. Stick to two or three sentences.
You will change and develop it as you read and investigate the topic.

3 Test your hypothesis with questions

Step one: Pretend you disagree – why would you disagree?

Step two: Pretend you agree totally – and add something else in support.

Step three: Agree to some extent, but point out weaknesses.

- What evidence can I find in support of / against this?
- What theoretical perspectives does it fit / not fit with?
- What do the main authors or thinkers have to say?
- Make comparisons – look for differences and similarities.

Make these questions more and more specific as you read more.

4 Modify and develop your answer as you read

How far – if at all – does each text confirm your answer?
Which parts? In what way? Can you use it in your essay? How? Where?
How far – if at all – does it contradict your answer?
Do you need to modify your answer? Why? In what way?
Will you keep your response and conclusions the same?
Does it suggest new questions/ issues you need to address?
How will you build these into your argument?

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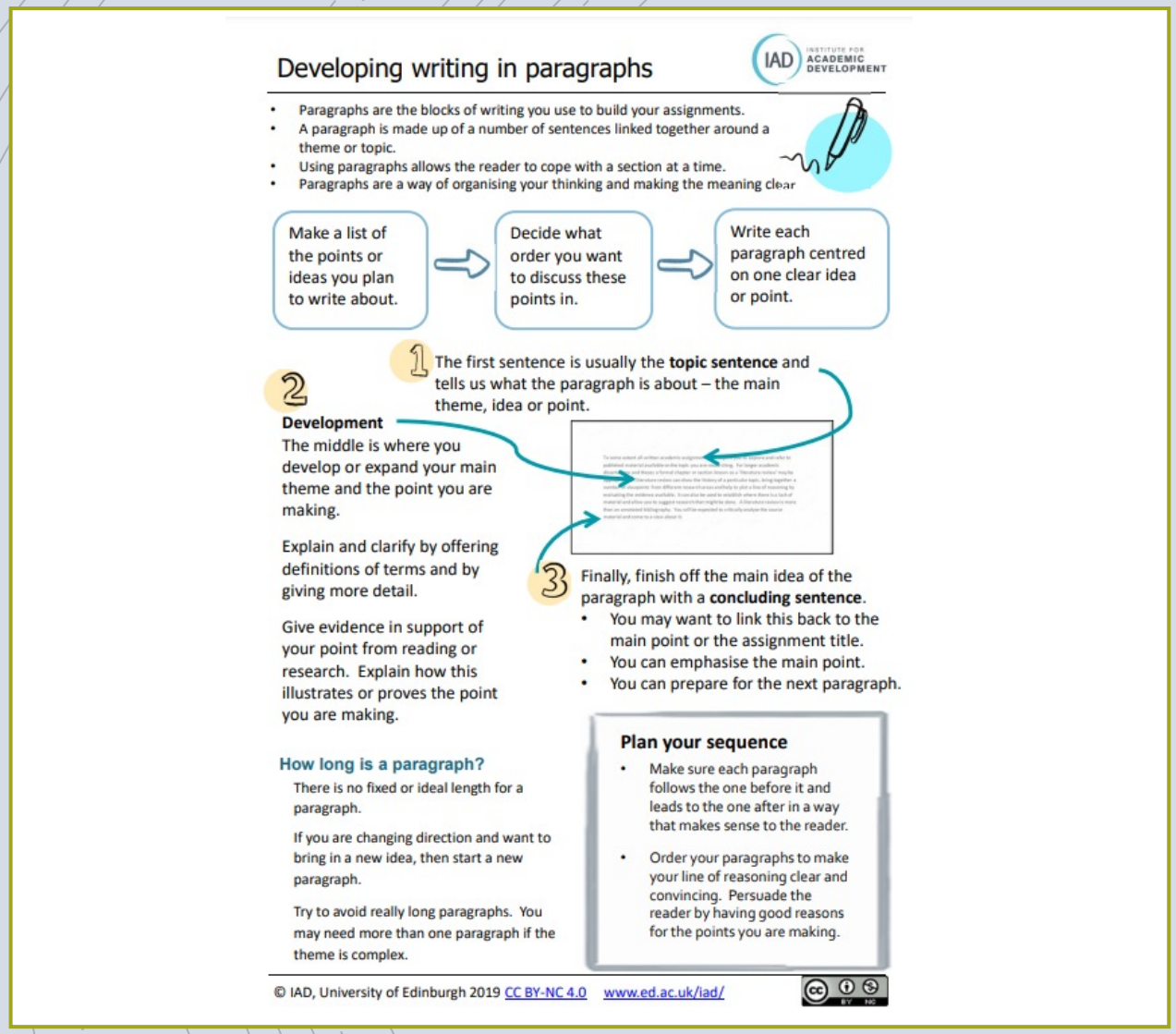
Institute for Academic Development

Build an argument as you go

https://www.ed.ac.uk/institute-academic-development/study-hub/learning-resources/writing



Developing writing in paragraphs

IAD INSTITUTE FOR ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Paragraphs are the blocks of writing you use to build your assignments.
- A paragraph is made up of a number of sentences linked together around a theme or topic.
- Using paragraphs allows the reader to cope with a section at a time.
- Paragraphs are a way of organising your thinking and making the meaning clear

Make a list of the points or ideas you plan to write about. → Decide what order you want to discuss these points in. → Write each paragraph centred on one clear idea or point.

1 The first sentence is usually the **topic sentence** and tells us what the paragraph is about – the main theme, idea or point.

2 **Development**

The middle is where you develop or expand your main theme and the point you are making.

Explain and clarify by offering definitions of terms and by giving more detail.

Give evidence in support of your point from reading or research. Explain how this illustrates or proves the point you are making.

3 Finally, finish off the main idea of the paragraph with a **concluding sentence**.

- You may want to link this back to the main point or the assignment title.
- You can emphasise the main point.
- You can prepare for the next paragraph.

How long is a paragraph?

There is no fixed or ideal length for a paragraph.

If you are changing direction and want to bring in a new idea, then start a new paragraph.

Try to avoid really long paragraphs. You may need more than one paragraph if the theme is complex.

Plan your sequence

- Make sure each paragraph follows the one before it and leads to the one after in a way that makes sense to the reader.
- Order your paragraphs to make your line of reasoning clear and convincing. Persuade the reader by having good reasons for the points you are making.

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Developing writing in paragraphs

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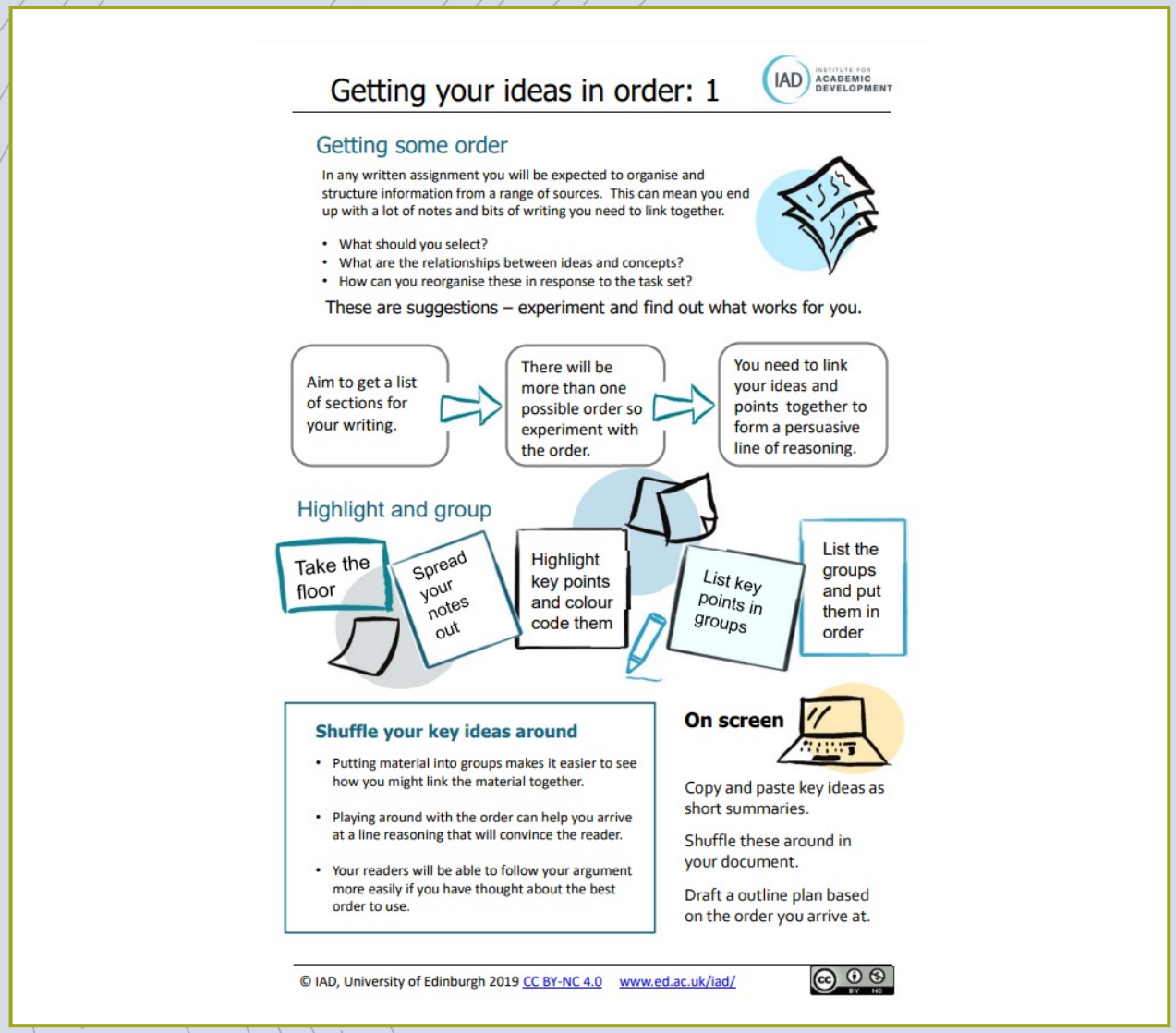

Getting your ideas in order: 1

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Getting some order

In any written assignment you will be expected to organise and structure information from a range of sources. This can mean you end up with a lot of notes and bits of writing you need to link together.

- What should you select?
- What are the relationships between ideas and concepts?
- How can you reorganise these in response to the task set?

These are suggestions – experiment and find out what works for you.

Aim to get a list of sections for your writing. → There will be more than one possible order so experiment with the order. → You need to link your ideas and points together to form a persuasive line of reasoning.

Highlight and group

Take the floor

Spread your notes out

Highlight key points and colour code them

List key points in groups

List the groups and put them in order

Shuffle your key ideas around

- Putting material into groups makes it easier to see how you might link the material together.
- Playing around with the order can help you arrive at a line reasoning that will convince the reader.
- Your readers will be able to follow your argument more easily if you have thought about the best order to use.

On screen

Copy and paste key ideas as short summaries.

Shuffle these around in your document.

Draft a outline plan based on the order you arrive at.

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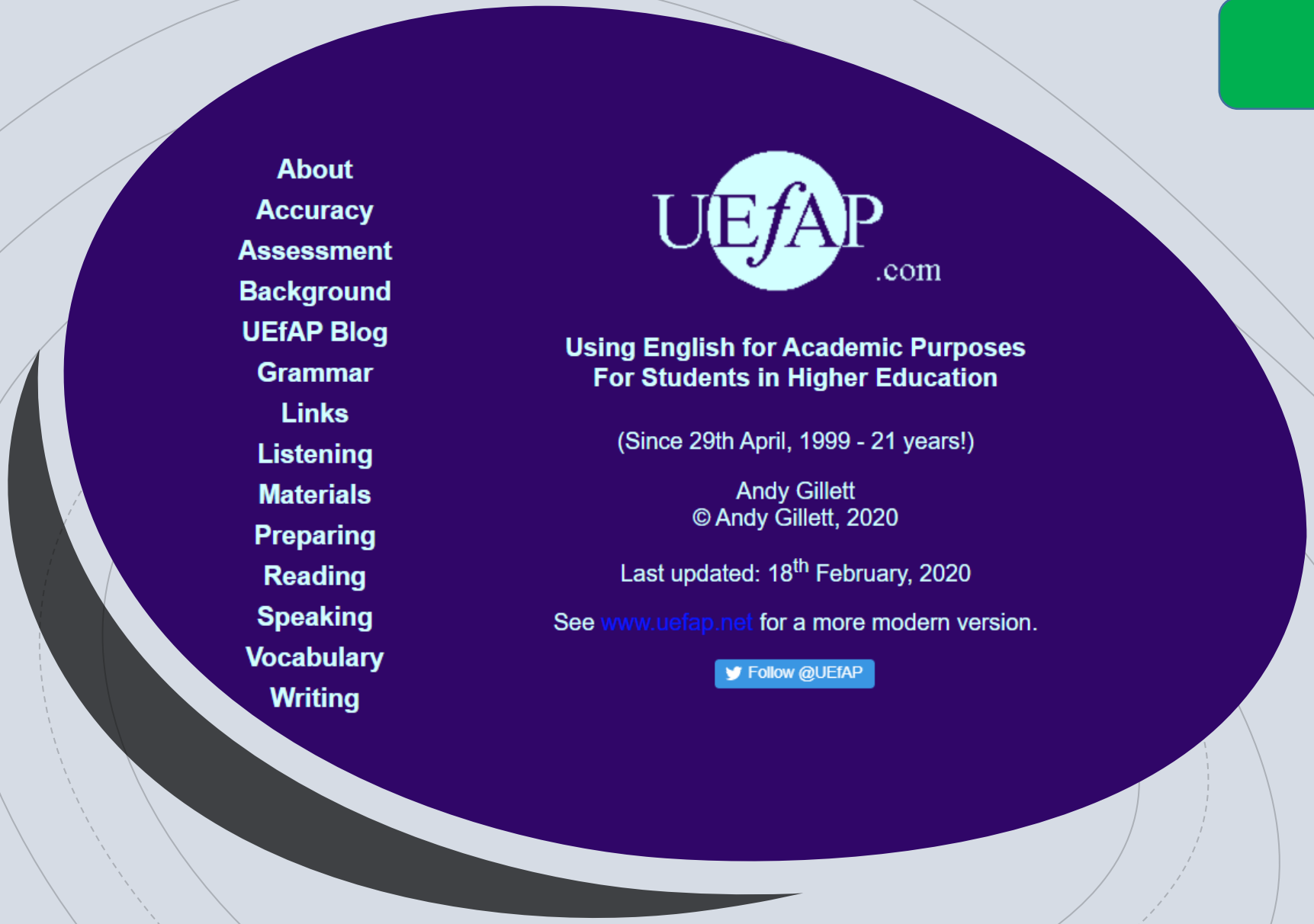
Institute for Academic Development

Getting your ideas in order

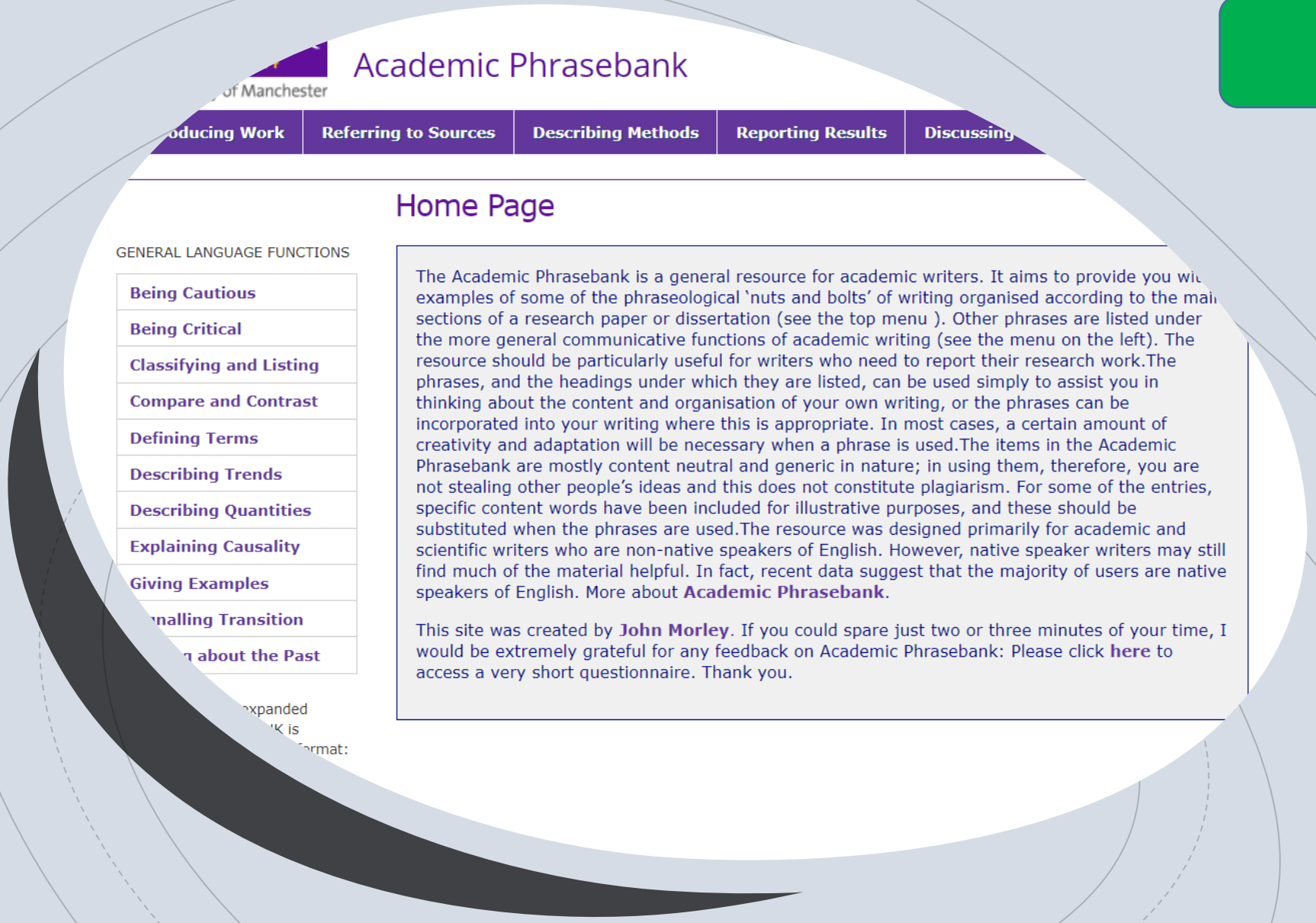
https://www.ed.ac.uk/institute-academic-development/study-hub/learning-resources/writing

External



UEfAP [Using English for Academic Purposes for Students in Higher Education]
http://www.uefap.com/

External



Manchester Academic Phrasebank

https://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/

External

Academic Writing

- http://www.uefap.net/writing/writing-paragraphs/writing-paragraphs-cohesion
- https://arts.uottawa.ca/writingcentre/en/hypergrammar/building-sentences
- https://arts.uottawa.ca/writingcentre/en/hypergrammar/writing-paragraphs

Academic Writing in the Sciences

- https://sites.duke.edu/scientificwriting/

External

Writing clearly, concisely & accurately

- https://www.monash.edu/rlo/research-writing-assignments/writing/clear-communication/writing-clearly-concisely-and-precisely
- https://natureofwriting.com/courses/sentence-structure/lessons/concise-sentences-2/topic/concise-sentences/
- https://www.scribbr.com/academic-writing/write-concisely/

External

Fragments and Run-Ons

- http://guidetogrammar.org/grammar/fragments.htm
- https://study.com/academy/lesson/what-is-a-sentence-fragment-definition-examples-quiz.html
- https://academicguides.waldenu.edu/writingcenter/grammar/runonsentences

External

Academic Word List

- https://www.eapfoundation.com/vocab/academic/awllists/
- http://www.uefap.com/vocab/select/awl.htm

- https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/lals/resources/academicwordlist