

Computer Science Seminar

Effective Writing Practices in the STEM Fields: An Illustration and Overview of Resources

Dr. Sarah Hercula
Missouri S&T



Being able to write clearly and effectively is an important skill for scholars in virtually every academic discipline—a fact that is undoubtedly apparent to graduate students who are faced with the task of writing a thesis or dissertation, for example. But what exactly is “clear and effective writing”? The answer to that question is: it depends. In this workshop-style presentation, Dr. Hercula will use the concepts of active and passive voice to illustrate that good writing strategies are always contextual, and as such, the best writers are skilled not only in using effective, field-specific writing

strategies but also in conducting linguistic and rhetorical analyses. Dr. Hercula will conclude by reviewing the resources available to S&T graduate students (particularly in the STEM fields) to improve and develop their writing skills.

Bio: Dr. Sarah Hercula is Assistant Professor of Applied Linguistics in the Department of English and Technical Communication at Missouri University of Science and Technology. She earned her Ph.D. in English studies with an emphasis in linguistics from Illinois State University. Her research interests include: English language variation, stigmatized varieties of English, English morphosyntax, language ideologies, and language standardization, among others. At S&T, Dr. Hercula teaches courses in linguistics, sociolinguistics, English grammar, and writing and enjoys the opportunity to work with students who are nonnative speakers and writers of English.

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Time: 10:00 am - 10:50 am

209 Computer Science Building

