

# **WolfWorks: Academic Skills at Wolfson College**



Alberto Garcia, Academic Skills Librarian



**Lee Library Wolfson College**

# Skills support

- Not remedial
- To help you excel at all levels
- Technical skills: searching for resources, citing them in a new style, avoiding plagiarism, software
- Academic skills: efficiency and effectiveness in reading, writing, note-making, data management, publishing



# Academic skills support at Cambridge

- Pre-arrival [CamGuides](#)
- Department or Faculty
- Libraries including [LibGuides](#)
- [Language Centre](#)
- [Disability Resource Centre](#)
- [Counselling Service](#)

Much available through [UTBS](#)



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# Academic skills support at Wolfson

- Director of Studies for subject-specific support
- Library staff for generic skills support
  - Online
    - [Using the library](#)
    - [LibGuide](#) pages, pdf guides, how to videos
  - 1-2-1: email for an appointment
- [Royal Literary Fund Fellow](#) for writing support
- [WolfWorks Workshops](#)



# WolfWorks

- Improve your confidence with a range of academic and personal skills
- Interact with peers in a safe and collegial environment
- Wednesday evenings 19:00

Date	Topic
13 October	<a href="#">Going beyond Google: Literature searching</a>
20 October	<a href="#">Stress-free referencing and bibliographies</a>
27 October	<a href="#">Managing your time to increase productivity</a>
3 November	<a href="#">Academic Writing- Social Sciences</a>
10 November	<a href="#">Academic Writing- Arts and Humanities</a>
17 November	<a href="#">Speed Reading: How to read texts strategically</a>
24 November	<a href="#">Note making for theses and dissertations</a>

Book places from Events page or directly at [www.wolfson.cam.ac.uk/wolfworks](http://www.wolfson.cam.ac.uk/wolfworks)

# Reflective practice

- To identify strengths and weaknesses
- Pinpoint skills and competencies that you want to develop
- For everyone, not just new students



# Reflect on this image



# Reflection

- Questioning how and why an event happened the way it did
- Thinking how it made/makes us feel
- Making connections between past, present and future experiences
- It includes both positives and negatives
- It is useful in its own right, but what we do with it is what matters



# Reflecting on your last educational encounter

- What did you do? (description)
- Did you enjoy it and why?
- What was challenging?
- What went well?
- What would you change?
- Have you started doing things differently?

(reflection,  
particularly if you  
ask yourself:  
**why?**)



# What is reflective writing?

- Written in the first person
- Free-flowing; don't stop to check sense or grammar
- Subjective
- Uninhibited
- Time-limited
- Can be private, such as a journal, or in public, such as a blog
- Review after a break
- Look back, think about what you have learned, and how to use it in the future.



# Why is it important?

Not necessarily what you write but the process, helping you to:

- Identify goals and plans
- Learn from what we have done and moving forward
- Manage time, plan assignments
- Be more creative
- Challenge assumptions
- Good for our wellbeing – just like talking about it but there is a lasting reminder



# Personal Development Plan – looking forward

- Identifying your strengths
  - what makes you feel strong, regardless of how good you are at it
- Identifying your weaknesses
  - what makes you feel weak, even if you are good at it
- Which skills do you need to be happy and successful in your work?
- Which skills would you like to improve and why?



# After your first lecture or meeting with your supervisor:

- **Looking back, reflect on:**
  - Your expectations before the experience
  - How you approached it
  - Which parts you found easy/hard
- **Think about what you learned as a result:**
  - How did your knowledge and understanding change?
  - What would you do differently if faced with a similar situation?
- **Consider how you might use your learning in the future:**
  - How might you put into practice what you have learnt?
  - What challenges might you face?
  - How would you deal with these?



# How do you develop skills?

- Attend a workshop
  - WolfWorks
  - UTBS - [www.training.cam.ac.uk](http://www.training.cam.ac.uk)
  - Faculty or Departmental
- Read a book (lots of study skills in the library opposite the borrowing machine)
- Watch a video
- Listen to a podcast
- Peer support – just ask!



# Get in touch

**Alberto Garcia**

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See you in the Library soon!



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