

## Writing and editing-related units at Murdoch University

Editing is not taught as a discrete unit or degree course at Murdoch, but the following areas have editing included in teaching:

1) The professional writing first-year unit covers the following:

- 'back to basics': contextualised overview of key points of grammar, syntax and punctuation
- writing at university: approaches to academic writing, including research, drafting and revision processes, and compiling of a reference list
- genres: exploration of different genres, including reports and emails, for example.

Apart from one dedicated session, editing practices are not taught separately but integrated into the various unit components.

2) In the English and Creative Writing degree, creative writing is taught in four units. The first-year unit covers the basics (character, dialogue, narrative tensions, etc.). The second-year unit focuses on working with paintings to encourage the use of all the senses and 'showing not telling'. The remaining two units cover literary journalism (the telling of non-fiction through the use of fictional techniques, such as scene-setting and dialogue) and the writing of a larger work of fiction. In each of these units editing is taught as part of the redrafting process (addressed across the semester) as the students learn to hone their work to produce drama and narrative tension, concise expression and moments of great emotion (less is more!). In the last week of each semester, basic grammar issues are revised.

3) English Honours Research Methods seminar (fourth-year unit) includes sessions on:

- editing practices
- examination of key editorial practices in two different editions of *Hamlet*
- examination of shifts in editing practices in 1818 and 1831 editions of *Frankenstein*
- examination of 1805 and 1850 editions of *The Prelude*
- academic editing practices, such as footnoting, compilation of bibliography, correct citation style, etc.

Essays have to be prepared as ready for journal submission. Support materials for the unit include style manuals (MLA, Chicago).

4) Postgraduates doing research Masters or PhDs undertake tailored graduate research education and training units, as needed. These include units on writing and editing.

5) In the School of Media, Communication and Culture subediting is taught in the Journalism degree.