



Australian
National
University

Ready for ANU? Introduction to Academic Skills

ANU Library Academic Skills



Australian
National
University

Australian National University acknowledges, celebrates and pays our respects to the Ngunnawal and Ngambri people of the Canberra region and to all First Nations Australians on whose traditional lands we meet and work, and whose cultures are among the oldest continuing cultures in human history.

Today's session

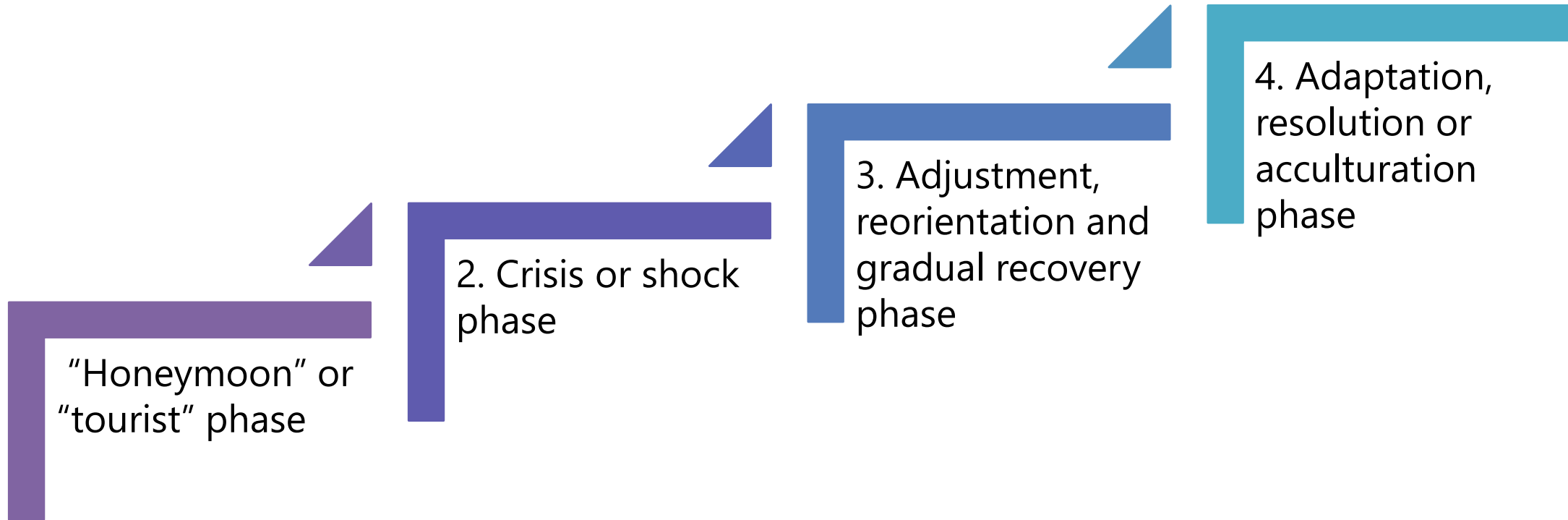
- Transition to new culture and education setting
- Tools for thriving in your first semester
- Writing and researching at university

Warm-up activity:

- Introduce yourself
- What are you studying?
- What questions do you have regarding your upcoming studies at ANU?
- What will be your biggest challenge?



Transitioning



Cultural practices that we see – explicit

Academic practices that we see – explicit

Cultural practices that are hidden – implicit

Academic practices that are hidden – implicit

Food

Due dates

Grades Dress

Course requirements Language

Class attendance

Manners

Speaking up in class

Treatment of guests

Courtship practices

Writing style

Acknowledging sources

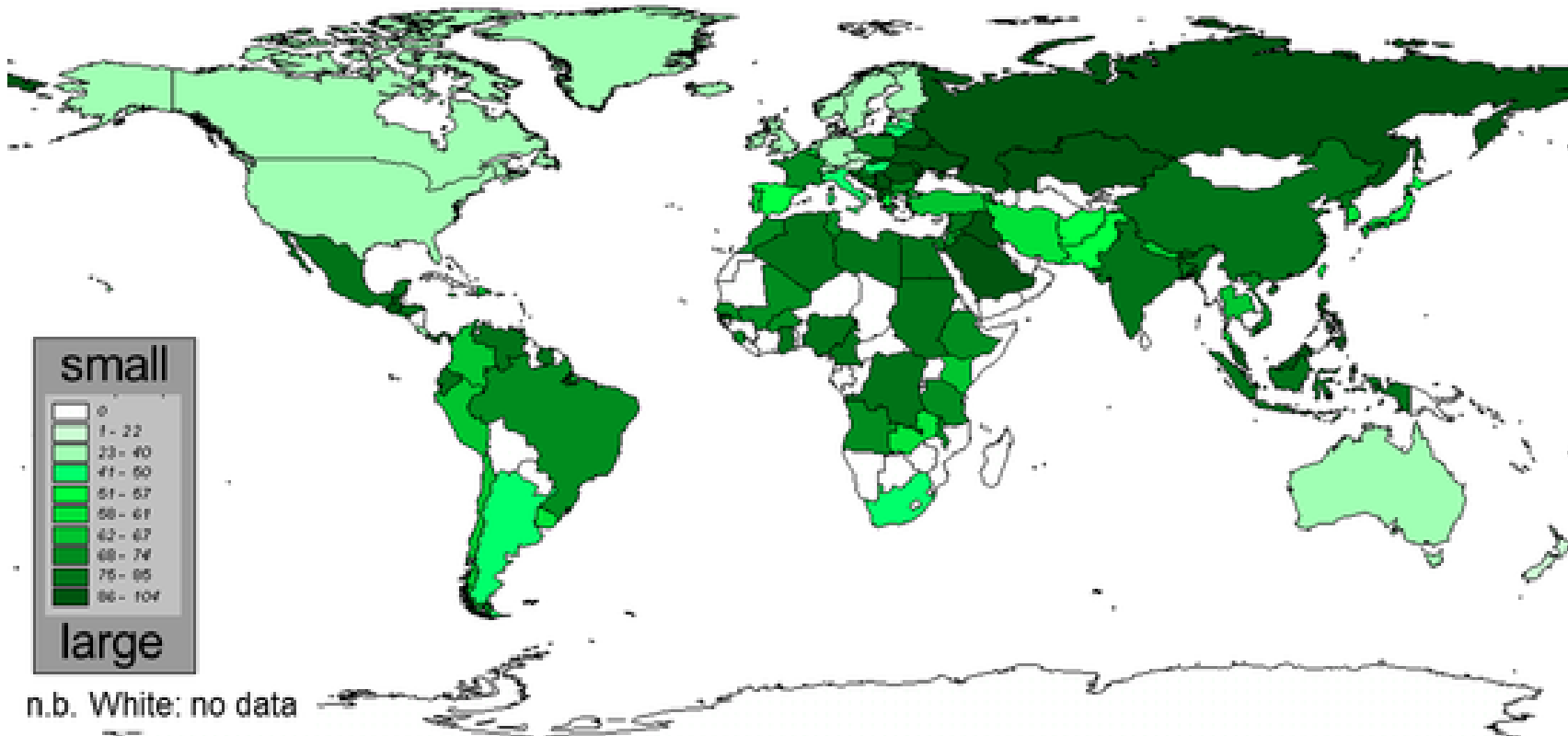
Seeking help

What to call the professor

Body language

Helping friends with their work

Power Distance World map



Power distance

People's relationship to authority

- Hierarchies
- Terms of address

The extent to which people "accept and expect that power is distributed unequally"

What might this mean for your studies?

Want to compare your country? www.hofstede-insights.com/country-comparison

Australian culture?



Power distance: People's relationship to authority

- Power distance can be high or low

- In Australia, power distance is **low**:

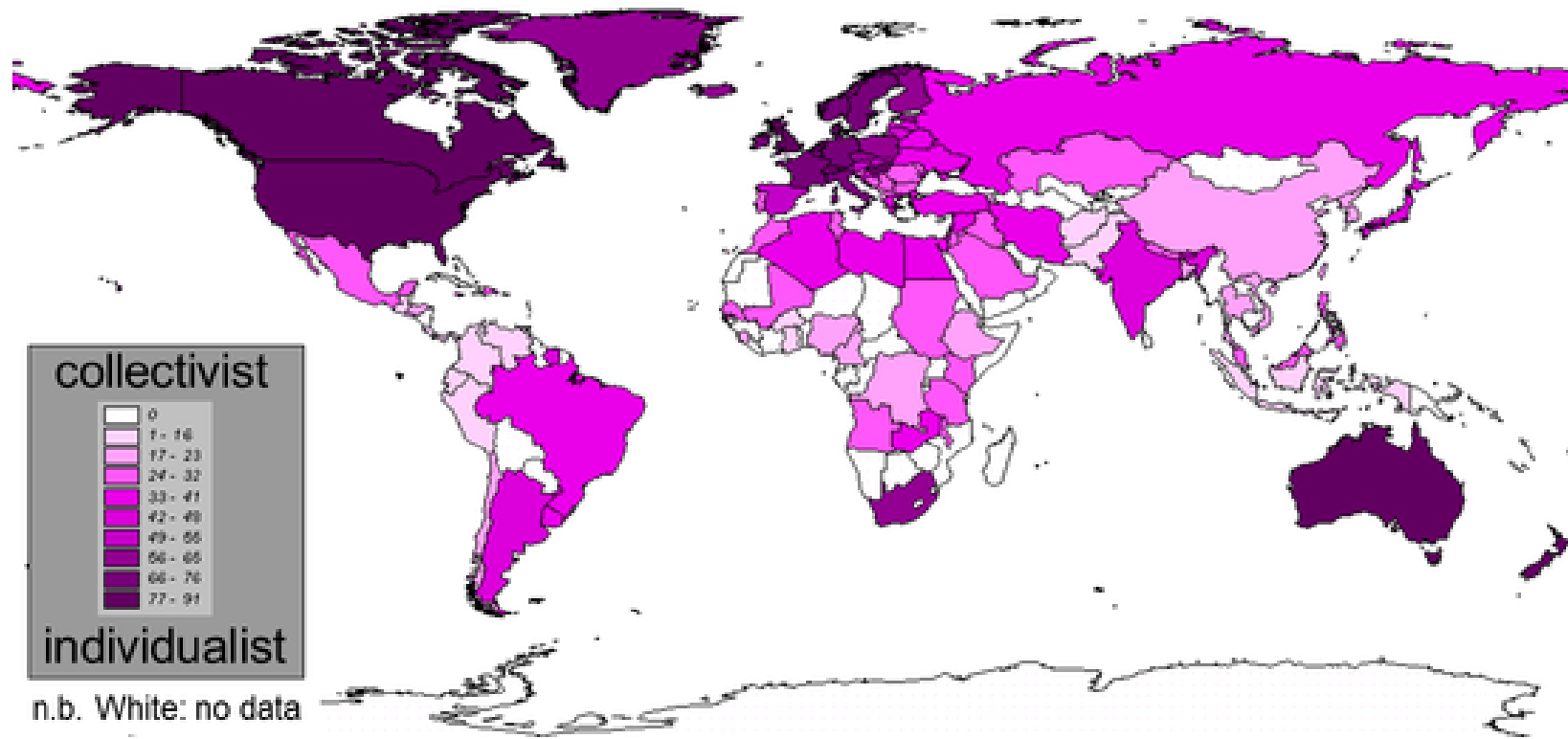
Age does not automatically generate respect

Call bosses / supervisors by first name

Have the right to discuss and argue

Can be critical of our leaders in the paper

Collectivism – Individualism World map



Individualism

- Cultures with loose ties between individuals; people tend to look after themselves and immediate family

Collectivism

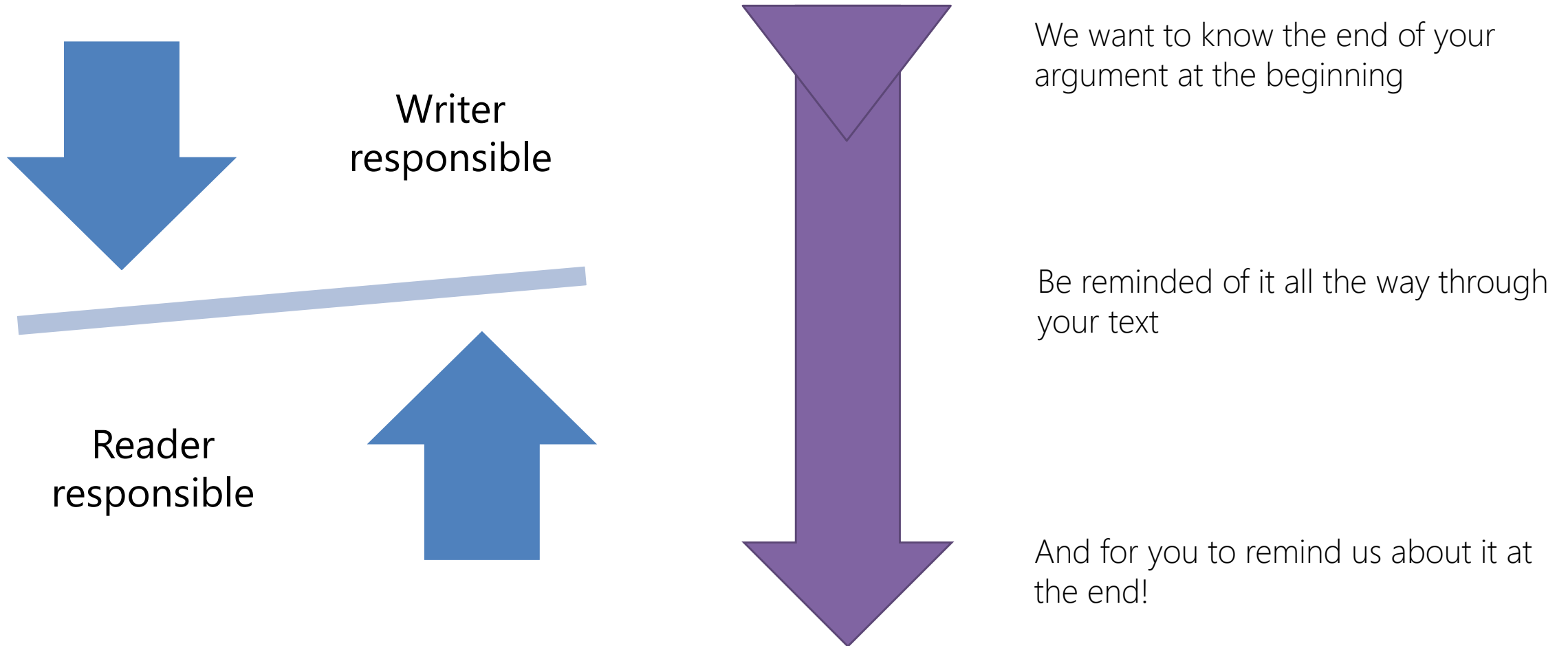
- People are integrated into strong, cohesive in-groups, (e.g. extended families) that protect them in exchange for loyalty

What might this mean for your studies?

Want to compare your country? www.hofstede-insights.com/country-comparison

Activity: How might collectivism or individualism affect our learning style?

Writing styles depend on culture



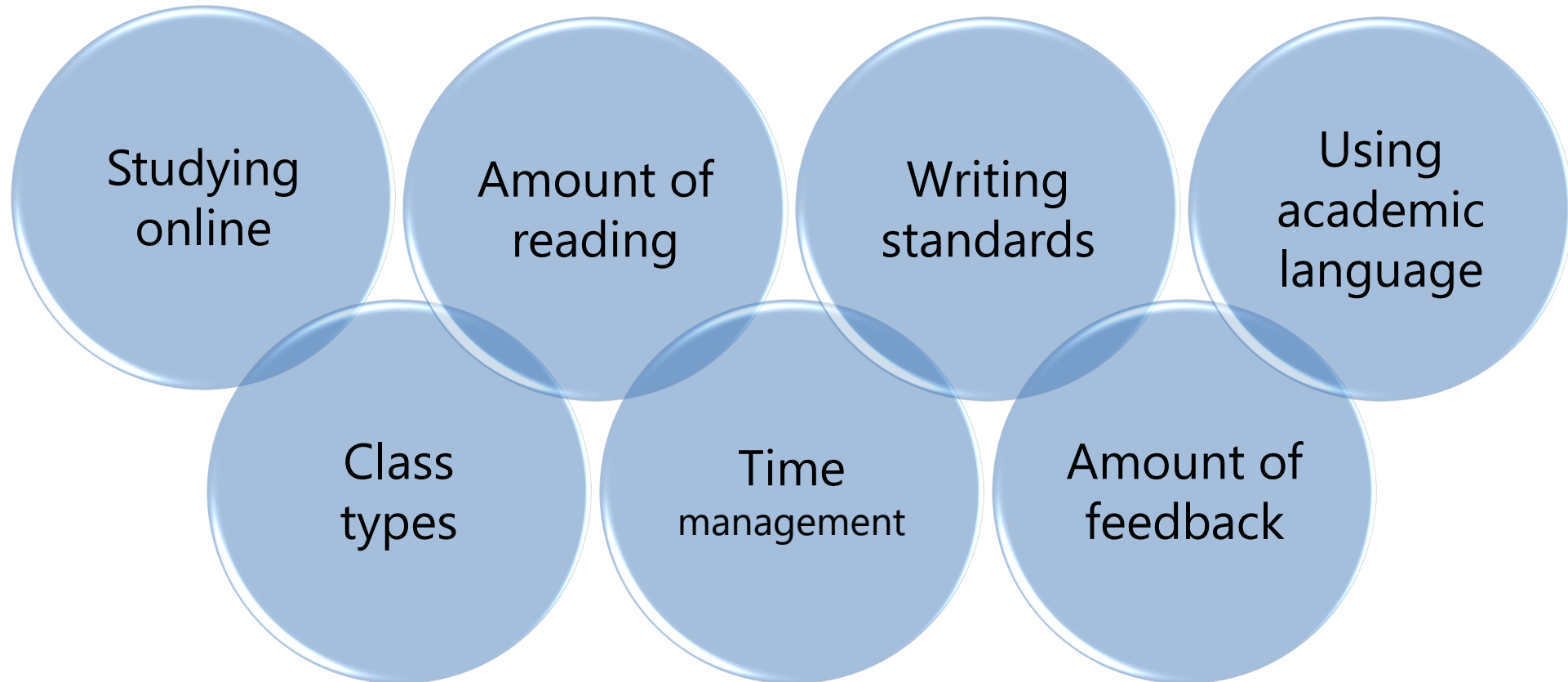
What might this mean for your studies?

Key message: reflect on your experience

- Reflect on how your learning is going
- Identify strengths and areas for improvement
- Critically evaluate strategies and plan for next time
- Seek advice



Many challenges lie ahead



thriving in
Tools for ~~surviving~~
your first semester

Class types

Lectures

- For delivering core content
- Used in all disciplines

Laboratories

- For testing and experimenting
- Used in science, computer science, languages, engineering

Workshops/Seminars

- Combination of lecture/tutorial
- Used in a number of disciplines

Tutorials

- For discussing core concepts
- Used mostly in humanities

Participating in class

- Find out which classes have compulsory participation
- Be active in your lectures by taking notes (in English)
- Prepare for tutorials by completing required reading and practicing answers
- Join **Let's Speak English** to improve fluency

Acknowledge
the challenge

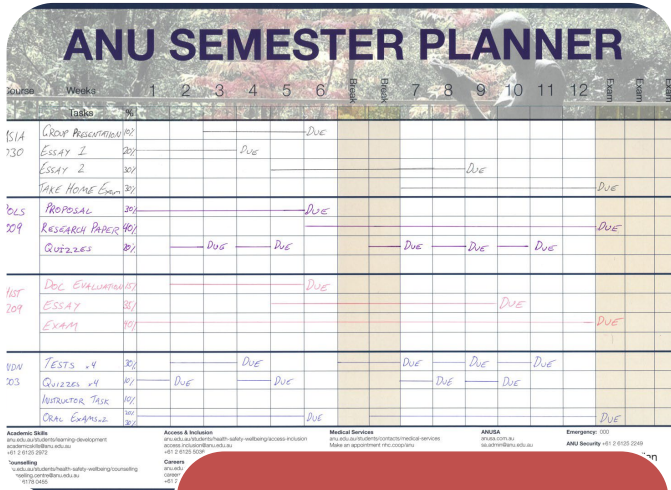
Create small,
daily goals

Develop a
growth
mindset

Develop a
balanced
routine

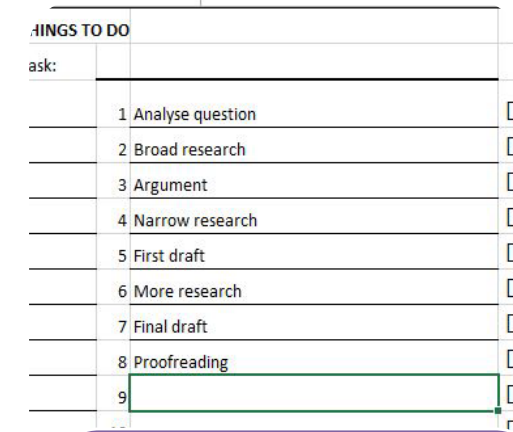
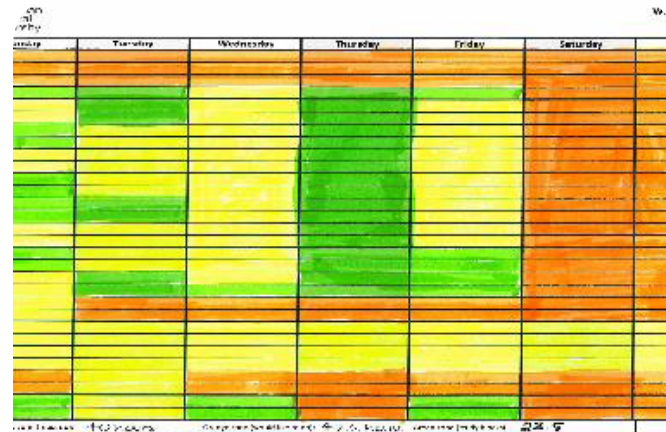
Boost
your
motivation

Develop time management strategies



ANU SEMESTER PLANNER

Source	Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Exam	Exam	Exam
1514	GROUP PRESENTATION															
130	ESSAY 1															
	ESSAY 2															
	TAKE HOME EXAM															
625	PROPOSAL															
209	RESEARCH PAPER															
	QUIZZES															
187	DOC EVALUATION															
209	ESSAY															
	EXAM															
104	TESTS #4															
203	QUIZZES #4															
	POSTTEST #4															
	ORAL EXAM															



THINGS TO DO
ask:
1 Analyse question
2 Broad research
3 Argument
4 Narrow research
5 First draft
6 More research
7 Final draft
8 Proofreading
9

Goal setting

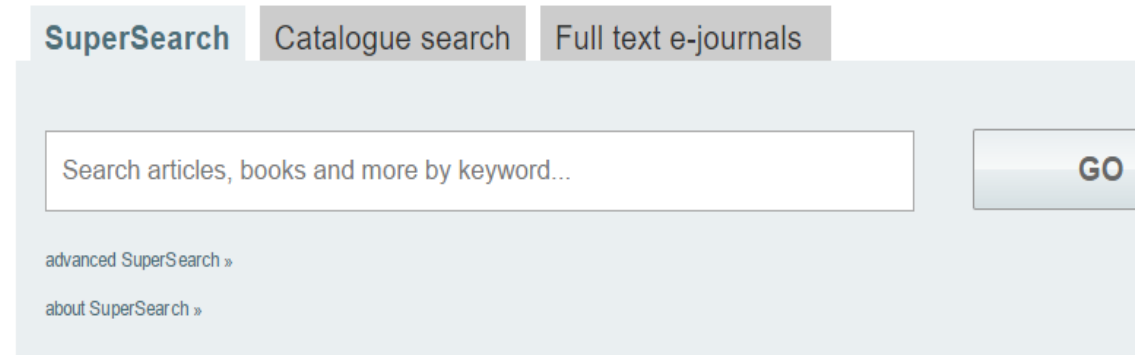
Weekly routine

Break down the tasks

Google: ANU Time Management

Developing research strategies

- Use ANU Library SuperSearch and Google Scholar
- Attend a Library workshop
- Check out the online resources on the Library and Academic Skills websites



The screenshot shows the ANU Library SuperSearch interface. At the top, there are three tabs: "SuperSearch" (selected), "Catalogue search", and "Full text e-journals". Below the tabs is a search input field with the placeholder text "Search articles, books and more by keyword...". To the right of the input field is a "GO" button. Below the input field, there are two links: "advanced SuperSearch »" and "about SuperSearch »".



The screenshot shows the ANU Library E-resources & databases interface. At the top, there is a link "E-resources & databases »". Below this link is a row of buttons representing the alphabet: "#", "A", "B", "C", "D", "E", "F", "G", "H", "I", "J", "K", "L", "M", "N", "O", "P", "Q", "R", "S", "T", "U", "V", "W".

Google Scholar



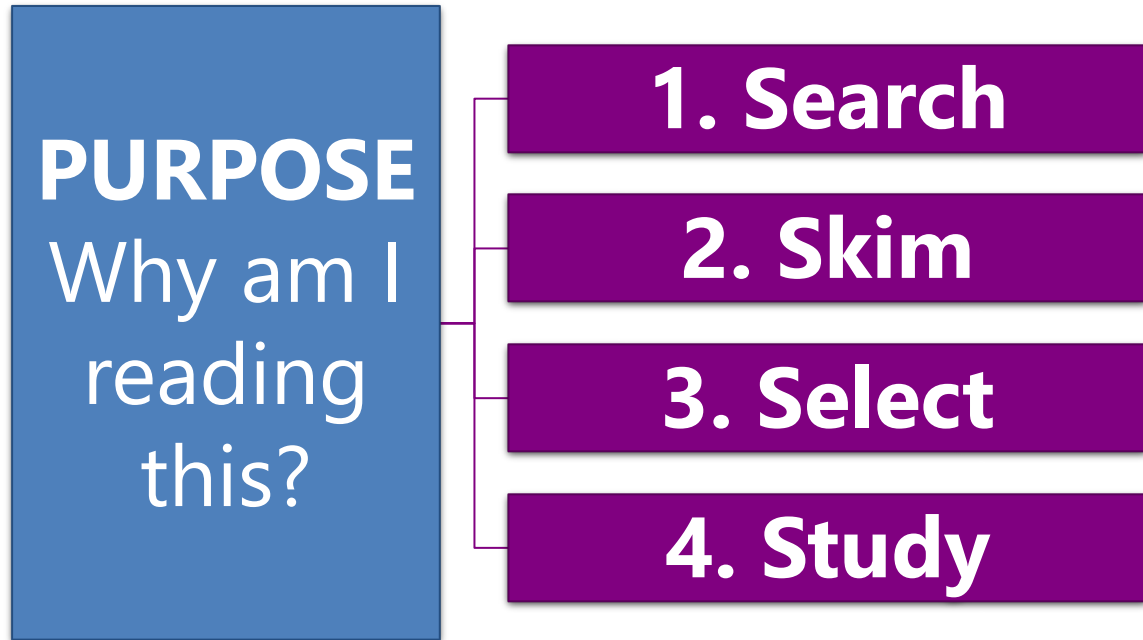
The screenshot shows the Google Scholar search bar. It is a long, empty text input field with a magnifying glass icon on the right side.

Articles Case law

Stand on the shoulders of giants

Developing reading strategies

- You won't have time to read everything
- First, identify questions
 - Tutorial questions
 - Task questions
- Next, skim to find the answers to your questions
- Then do closer, more focused reading



Writing in your own words

Original text	Notes	Paraphrased sentence
<p>1. Anna Eleanor Roosevelt was born to Elliott and Anna Hall Roosevelt in New York on Oct. 11, 1884. Theodore Roosevelt, the 25th President, was her uncle. The families of both her parents were prominent socially, the Roosevelts a wealthy family of Dutch descent and the Hall same family Livingston, the English-descended signer of the Declaration of Independence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Born in 1884• famous family background: uncle Theodore was 25th US President; Philip Livingston signed the Declaration of Independence	<p>Eleanor Roosevelt was the niece of the 25th US President, Theodore Roosevelt.[ref]</p>

- Paraphrase from your notes
- Don't try to include everything
- Show your understanding of the source's argument
- Relate source to your own work
- Go to *Using sources* and *Academic integrity*

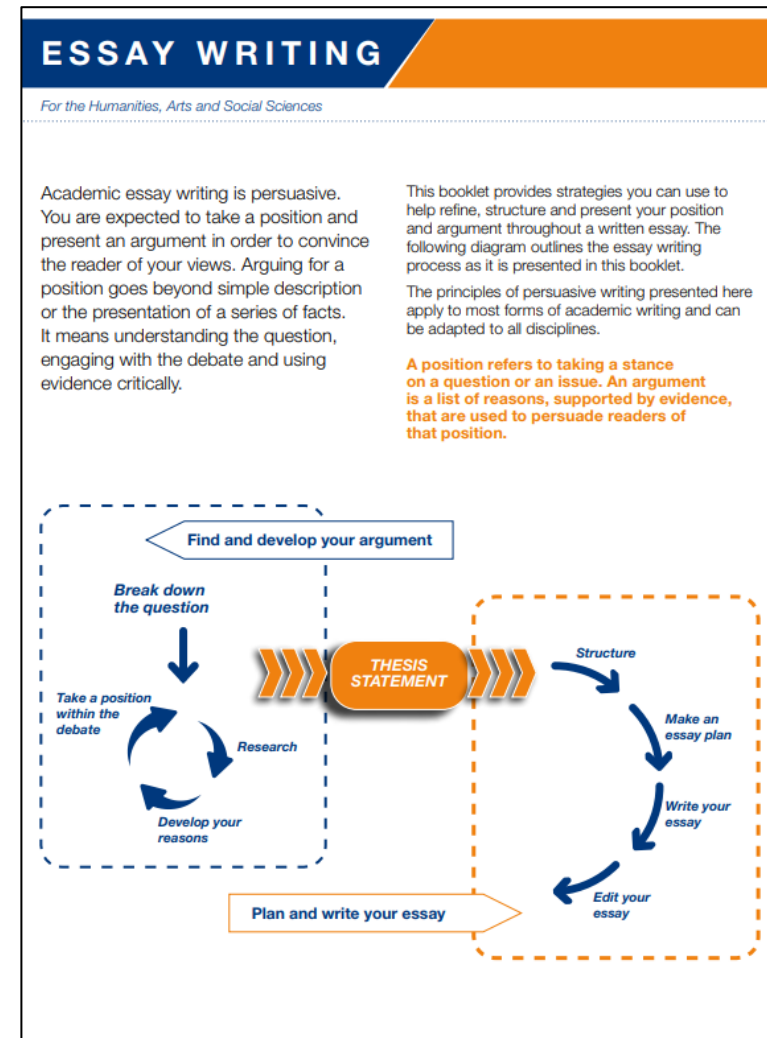
Developing referencing skills

- Find out what styles you need to use
- Use a reputable referencing guide (e.g. Monash)
- Paraphrase from your notes
- Use the Turnitin Practice site
- We have Academic Integrity and Referencing webpages



Developing academic writing skills

- Familiarise yourself with persuasive writing techniques
 1. Clear thesis statement
 2. Signposting of logic
 3. Topic sentences that develop line of argument
- Come to see us to get feedback before you submit
- See our website



Get to know your fellow students



Finally, be proactive – seek help early!

There is plenty of support available; you are not alone in your journey!

Individual consults to support your academic writing and research skills



SCAN ME



LEARNING ADVISERS

- Boost your research and academic writing skills
- Receive expert, individualised feedback to improve your writing
- 45 minute booked consults on Zoom
- Written feedback also available
- Available Mon-Fri throughout the year 9am-6pm



WRITING COACHES

- Check in to see your assignment is on the right track
- Receive individualised feedback to improve your writing
- 30 minute booked consults on Zoom
- Written feedback also available
- Available Mon-Fri during semester 10am-4pm



PEER WRITERS

- Ask a quick question
- Receive immediate feedback from a fellow student on assignments, exams, revision, time management and more
- 10-15 minute drop-ins
- At Chifley Library or via Zoom
- Available Mon-Fri during semester 12-2pm



DIGITAL LITERACY TRAINERS

- Receive support for your thesis and journal article formatting, EndNote reference management and subject-specialist research consultations
- 30 or 60 minute booked consults on Zoom
- Available Mon-Fri throughout the year 9am-6pm

ANU Academic Skills

Let's Speak English!

Join fun conversation groups,
make new friends, and
practice your English

Via Zoom
1–2pm Mondays

In-person
Tuesday–Friday 1–2pm, Di Riddell 2.49

To find out more, visit
anu.edu.au/LetsSpeakEnglish



Thank you for coming!

Academic writing, referencing
academicskills@anu.edu.au

Endnote, finding information, thesis formatting:
Digital.literacy@anu.edu.au