

EPPIC: Multilingual Student Success

Advanced Academic & Professional English



WHAT IS EPPIC?

EPPIC is an academic support & research center that

- Provides services to international multilingual students for advanced academic English
- Promotes intercultural awareness & exchange across the university community

English for Professional Purposes Intercultural Center

017 Thomas Building

Department of Applied Linguistics



WHAT SERVICES DOES EPPIC OFFER?

EPPIC offers support for advanced academic and professional English to multilingual students through:

- Workshops (writing, presentations, interviews, email)
- EPPIC Individual Consultations (one-on-one)
- Customized programs on specialized English

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Department of Applied Linguistics

WHAT IS EPPIC?

Connected to the **Department of Applied Linguistics**

- ESL courses at UP - Undergraduate & Graduate-level
- Research on language analysis
- Research on discipline-specific writing, speaking, teaching (e.g., Economics, Engineering, medicine)
- Multilingual faculty and students

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WHAT DOES EPPIC DO?

- **Research** on academic communication patterns
- **Services** for international students & scholars
 - **Workshops** on academic English writing & speaking
 - Emails, pronunciation, presentations, and more
 - One-on-one **meetings: EPPIC Individual Consultations**
 - **Speak UP** weekly group: Make time to talk!

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WHY EPPIC?

- **Support complex communication skills** required for academic and professional life
 - Email, websites, videos, LinkedIn, social media
- **Support multiple types** of academic writing & speaking
 - Course papers, teaching, interviews, job applications
- **Promote global perspectives and communication**
 - Across students, faculty, staff, advisers at Penn State

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Spring 2024 Workshops

To register for workshops, please visit eppic.la.psu.edu.

Workshop Series

- Applying for Jobs in the U.S.
- Foundational Academic Skills
- Pronunciation
- Research Writing
- Presentations

Applying for Jobs in the United States

Tuesdays, 5:00–6:30 p.m. in 103 Business Building

January 23: “Writing Targeted Cover Letters”

January 30: “Preparing for Industry Job Interviews”

February 6: “Introducing Yourself and Your Research: Using Elevator Speeches to Network at Conferences”

February 13: “Preparing for Academic Job Interviews” ** **final workshop in 215 Business Building** **

Foundational Academic Skills in the United States

Wednesdays, 3:30–5:00 p.m. in 005 Huck Life Sciences Building

January 17: “Strategies for Reading Academic Articles”

January 24: “Using Critical Reading to Actively Participate in Discussions”

January 31: “Incorporating Sources in Academic Writing: Strategies for Skillful Paraphrasing”

February 7: “Structure and Flow in Academic Writing”

Focus on Pronunciation

Mondays, 4:00–5:30 p.m. in 121 Thomas Building

February 5: “The Sounds of American English”

February 12: “Syllables and Stress in American English”

February 19: “The Rhythm of American English”

February 26: “Intonation in American English”

Research Writing in English

Tuesdays, 5:00–6:30 p.m. via Zoom

March 12: “Writing Abstracts for Papers and Conferences”

March 19: “Preparing to Write a Literature Review”

March 26: “Writing Effective Literature Reviews”

April 2: “Writing About Data and Results in Research Papers”

Academic Presentation Skills

Wednesdays, 3:30–5:00 p.m. in 005 Huck Life Sciences Building

March 20: “Presenting a Poster: How to Attract and Keep an Audience”

March 27: “Preparing Academic Slide Presentations: Tips for Design”

April 3: “Giving Academic Slide Presentations: Tips for Clear Delivery”

April 10: “Interacting During Academic Slide Presentations: Tips for Answering Questions”

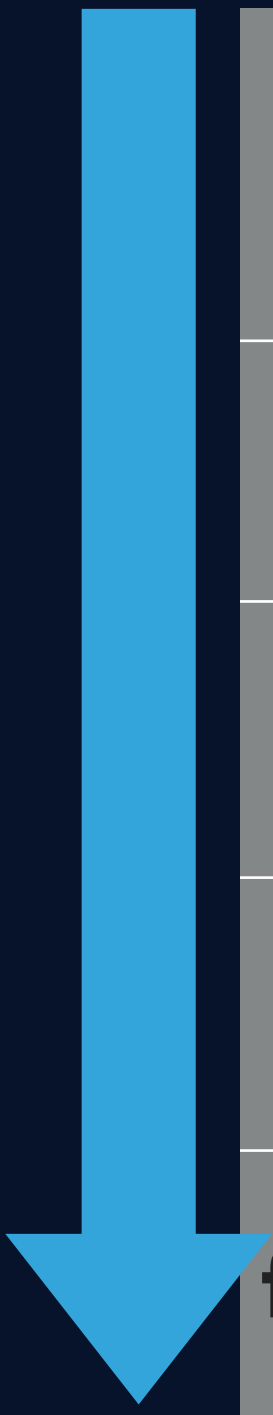


EMAILING YOUR PROFESSORS

HOW TO DO IT BETTER

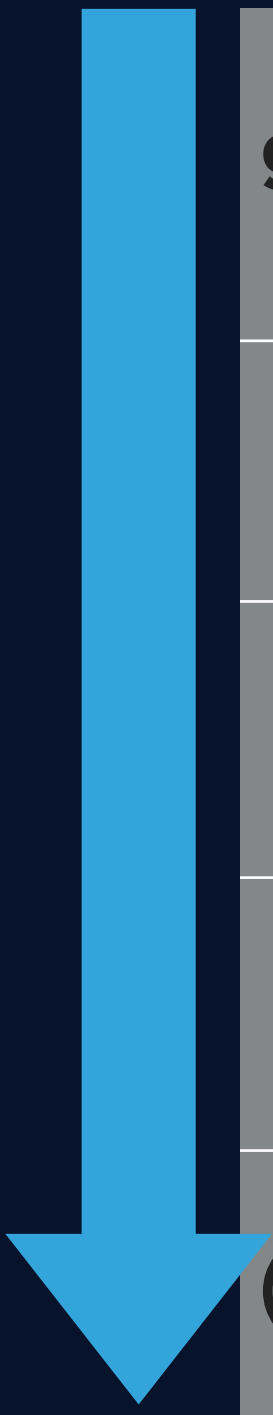
ENGLISH FOR PROFESSIONAL PURPOSES INTERCULTURAL CENTER (EPPIC)

PURPOSE: I HAVE A REQUEST



very polite	I would be grateful if you could send me... I would appreciate if you could...
polite	Could you please send me... ? Could you send me..., please?
polite but	Could you send me... ? Would you send me... ?
more direct	Please send me...
forceful	Send me...

PURPOSE: I HAVE A REQUEST



your gratitude + modal	I would be grateful if you could send me... I would appreciate if you could...
modal + please	Could you please send me... ? Could you send me..., please?
modal	Could you send me... ? Would you send me... ?
please	Please send me...
(nothing)	Send me...

Participating in Group Work

What to Expect & How to Get Involved

WHAT



does participation look like



WHY

is participation valued

HOW

to participate in
small groups

to participate
in large group
discussions



WHAT



does participation look like



WHY

is participation valued

HOW

to participate in
small groups



to participate
in large group
discussions



ORGANIZER

keep on task
create subtasks
involve everyone

SKEPTIC

push possibilities
ask questions
reach understanding

RECORDER

check consensus
record solutions
keep notes

GROUP ROLES

CONCILIATOR

resolve conflicts
minimize stress
promote safe space

EXPLAINER

emphasize main points
check understanding
of content; of roles

SKEPTIC

*ENSURES THE GROUP AVOIDS PREMATURE AGREEMENT
ASKS QUESTIONS THAT WILL LEAD TO UNDERSTANDING
PUSHES THE GROUP TO EXPLORE ALL POSSIBILITIES*

"I think that's a good point,
but have you considered..."

"I am not so sure I agree with
that. The way I see it..."

"I interpreted that
differently."

"I can see how you came to
that conclusion, but..."

"Here's another way to look
at it."

"What exactly do you mean
by...?"

Student Participation Guide: Roles & what to say

ORGANIZER

GETS THE GROUP ORGANIZED

KEEPS THE GROUP ON TASK

ORGANIZES TASKS INTO SUB-TASKS

MAKES SURE EVERYONE HAS A CHANCE TO CONTRIBUTE

"[NAME], Do you mind...?"

"So who wants to...?"

"I will..." / "I'll take..." / "I'll handle..."

"Okay, I guess we'd better get started."

"What do you think we should do first?"

"That's interesting. How about we go around the group and all explain something we understood."

"I wish we could keep chatting, but we better get some work done."



PREPARING ACADEMIC SLIDE PRESENTATIONS

TIPS FOR DESIGN



GIVING ACADEMIC SLIDE PRESENTATIONS

TIPS FOR CLEAR DELIVERY

Focus on Pronunciation

The Rhythm of American English

Thought groups

like punctuation for your speaking

just like punctuation:

can change your meaning

woman without her man is helpless

Thought groups

like punctuation for your speaking

just like punctuation:

can change your meaning

Woman without her man / is helpless.

Woman without her man is helpless.

Woman / without her / man is helpless.

Woman: Without her, man is helpless.

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EPPIC INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATIONS

ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS

- **Bring your work!**
 - Projects, presentations, proposals, papers, applications
- **Review & discuss with a language specialist**
- **Appointments via Zoom or in-person**

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EPPIC Individual Consultation

I would like to work on:

Academic Writing

- Organizing my ideas and information
- Making my ideas clear and concise
- A specific type of writing (course paper, statement of purpose, cover letter, etc.)
- Working with academic sources (e.g., citation formats, summarizing, paraphrasing, etc.)
- Understanding professor's expectations/feedback on my writing
- _____

Speaking Skills

- Speaking more clearly and accurately
- Conversational English skills
- A specific type of speaking (e.g., small talk, elevator speech, service encounter, etc.)
- Participating in class discussions
- Giving oral presentations
- _____

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EPPIC PHILOSOPHY

Relevance

Respect

Repertoire

Resources

Responsiveness

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WHAT IS SPEAK UP?

- **Weekly** English conversation group, new topics each week
- Language/cultural **lesson, discussion, practice**
- **Questions** welcome! Weekly topics.
- **All students** are invited (UG & G; international or not)

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Speak UP

To register, please visit: eppic.la.psu.edu

UP your speaking skills!
UP your cultural knowledge!
UP your confidence!



ADVANCED ENGLISH SPEAKING GROUP • MEETS WEEKLY

Speak UP focuses on advanced language use in everyday university contexts. Lessons include cultural information, commonly used phrases, and pronunciation tips. Participants have an opportunity to engage with their new knowledge through group discussions, role-plays, and other activities with peers.

THURSDAYS | 4:30 P.M. | 220A BOUCKE BUILDING

HOUR 1: LANGUAGE LESSON and DISCUSSION

HOUR 2 (optional): ACTIVITIES and PRACTICE

JANUARY

January 25 - Talking with Anyone: Small Talk in the United States

FEBRUARY

February 1 - Talking with Everyone: Conversational Everyday Phrases

February 8 - Talking in Idioms: Understanding Slang and Metaphors

February 15 - Talking with/at/over: Using Phrasal Verbs to Sound Less Formal

February 22 - Talking with Friends: Socializing at a Bar or Restaurant

February 29 - Talking about Americans: Sharing Observations from the U.S. and
Discussing Culture Shock

MARCH

March 14 - Talking in Groups: Joining Conversations and Participating in
Discussions

March 21 - Talking with Advisers: Negotiating and Being Your Own Advocate

March 28 - Networking: Breaking the Ice at Professional Events



PennState
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DEPARTMENT OF
APPLIED LINGUISTICS

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WHAT AMERICANS SAY

SLANG & IDIOMS IN THE U.S.

SPEAK UP: SESSION 2
FOCUS ON INTERACTION



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- **Research** on academic communication patterns
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NOT SURE WHICH SERVICES ARE RIGHT FOR YOU?
SCHEDULE WITH EPPIC ADVISING TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS

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CONNECTING WITH EPPIC

Services are free to students

- Start with EPPIC Advising
- Registration for services on-line at *eppic.la.psu.edu*
- Weekly MailChimp message with upcoming events
- Subscribe on EPPIC's 'Contact Us' page

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QUESTIONS?

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Learn more and register for advising, consultations,
groups, or workshops at **eppic.la.psu.edu**