Hello, and welcome to the Medical College of Wisconsin's Master of Public Health Degree Program Student Writing Tutorial. This three-part series of presentations has been created especially for you to aid you in your writing efforts while in the MPH Program.
You are now viewing part I of the Student Writing Tutorial. In part I, I'll discuss the purpose of this tutorial, provide you with some resources you may use to review basic grammar guidelines, and briefly talk about spelling. I'll conclude Part I with a discussion of plagiarism and the ethical codes of writing within the MPH Program.
The specific purpose of this series of tutorials is tri-fold:

First, this tutorial is purposed to provide you with a brief refresher of some of the common elements of writing, which you likely learned prior to entering the MPH Program.

Second, this tutorial is intended to provide you with a succinct and organized tool, which you may use over and over again as a guide while completing writing assignments during and after the program. In addition to the text content provided within this presentation, you will find a number of links to outside sources, which you may find useful and want to take advantage of as you progress through the program.

Third, this tutorial is accompanied by links throughout to a public health writing specialist here at the MPH Program. To access the writing specialist during this presentation, or to receive further guidance for specific writing projects, click the “Ask the Writing Specialist” link located on each slide.

A brief note of caution about links throughout this presentation. If you are unable to access links through this presentation, you may access them through the PDF version of this presentation without notes, which has also been provided for you.
We’ll dive right into this tutorial by addressing the issue of grammar. Poor grammar within your paper may lead to point deductions and reductions in the overall perceived professionalism of both you and your paper. For a grammar refresher, visit the Purdue Online Writing Lab using the link provided in this slide. In addition to this link, ESL students may also want to visit the second site indicated on this slide to combat some of the common challenges often faced in writing when English is not one’s first language.
Spelling

- Incorrect Spelling
  - Point deductions
  - Decreased professionalism
- Commonly misspelled words:
- Commonly confused words:
  http://grammar.about.com/od/words/a/UsageGlossary.htm

Ask the Writing Specialist

Though quite elementary, and often not included in conversations about graduate level writing, incorrect spelling within the text of your paper, like poor grammar, may also lead to point deductions by your instructor and diminish the overall quality and professional appearance of your paper. For this reason, it is vitally important that you catch and correct all misspellings prior to submitting your paper. Spell check is a common way to electronically recognize and correct misspelled words within your paper. However, spell check is flawed in that it does not always help you to identify improperly used words. This tutorial is meant to be brief, so I will direct you to several really helpful external public sites, which will help you to identify some commonly misspelled words as well as some commonly confused or misused words in the English language.
In a nutshell, plagiarism involves the unfair use of someone else’s work whether it be text, music, photos, or otherwise without giving them credit. Though sometimes unintentional, plagiarism is a serious offense punishable by law. For this reason, you want to establish with your instructor which referencing system he or she prefers that you use and properly use it for each author you cite in your paper. (We’ll discuss referencing styles in more depth in Part II of this series). Each MPH course syllabus has a statement defining what plagiarism is and how to avoid it when writing. You will want to review this statement before you begin the writing process.
All MPH syllabi also include a student ethics code delineating the academic integrity expected of all students. Embedded within this statement are expectations surrounding academic honesty--including respecting the work of others by citing them whenever you use parts of their work. For more information about plagiarism visit the sites indicated within the gold box on this slide. Due to the increased number of plagiarism cases on higher education campuses, you are strongly encouraged to visit these sites, if only briefly, to become acclimated to what plagiarism encompasses and how you, as a student, can avoid committing and paying the penalty for plagiarism.
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• West LA College Writing Website

This slide marks the end of part I. Please progress to part II of the MPH Student Writing Tutorial.