

Editing Course 2010/2011

# ESTABLISHING WRITING STYLE

# Compare these two openings

- Texts are usually treated with reverence in the classroom. Published materials are viewed as objective, unbiased truth reflecting the view of respected institutions such as newspapers or publishing houses. Teachers and students therefore usually accept the printed word without actively challenging the content or implied assumptions expressed by the language. However, in an age when students are inundated with print, it is important for them to be able to view and question texts critically. This implies taking assertive positions against a text's "obvious" and "taken for granted" stance (Wallace, 1990).

- All over planet, they are disappearing. Scientists are worried. It may be a sign of THE END OF THE WORLD. No, I'm not talking about vanishing frogs. I'm talking about absent vowels. I got a message the other day that said, "Mt@3 rd st crnr @ 12", signed "QT". What did it mean? A young text-savvy person in the office told me that QT meant "Cutie", and translated: "An attractive young woman wants to meet you at the corner of Third Street at noon."

# Discuss the comparison based on

- ⦿ The audience of the text.
- ⦿ The purpose of the text.
- ⦿ The tone of the text.

# Style in Writing considers

- The audience
- The purpose
- The tone

# Language: How to get the message across?

## ◎ Formal

- Letter to Editor, business letters, wedding invitation, articles on national newspaper, academic paper, etc.

## ◎ Informal

- Letter to friends, popular writings on magazines, short stories and novels.

# Formal Language: clear and avoid ambiguity

- Use accurate and specific vocabulary.
- Complex structures.
- Impersonal point of view.
- Gender-neutral language.

# Informal Language

- More freedom in vocabulary used: slang, colloquial?
- Figurative language.
- Personal point of view.
- Beware of overused, outdated, or specified slang and colloquial language.



# Style

- ① Writing style is shaped through revised, rewritten and crafted writing.
- ① The more you write, the more developed your style is.
- ① Some writers with distinct styles can be traced from their collections of essays and writings.

# Which one do you like best?

## Why?

- In the novel “Pride and Prejudice” the author creates Wickham to give us a villain. Wickham provides some action and conflict for an otherwise dull novel about a prim and proper life.
- Mr. Wickham came to town a stranger. Arriving with his best friend Mr. Bingley, he was perceived as a nice, respectable young man. Mr. Wickham was a deceptive villain in “Pride and Prejudice” by Jane Austen. He was vital in three important aspects: to the character development of Elizabeth, to show the blindness of other characters, and to teach the lesson of looking past the outside to the real person inside.

# How would you develop the following writings?

- *Pride and Prejudice*, a novel by Jane Austen, tells us about love story that includes manners and social life. The main character, Elizabeth Bennet, the 2<sup>nd</sup> daughter in Bennets family was falling in love with Fitzwilliam Darcy who was a very rich and handsome man. At first, both of them didn't have any feeling toward each other. Elizabeth even hate Mr. Darcy at the first time they met. Elizabeth's hate feeling was growing and growing after she heard a lot of bad comment of Mr. Darcy from other character. But after she knew the real characteristics of Mr. Darcy, Elizabeth's feeling for him was changed. In this novel, there is a minor character named Lady Catherine de Bourgh who tried to separate Elizabeth from Mr. Darcy.

- Have you ever seen KCB (Ketika Cinta Bertasbih)? If you ever seen, you will know who Azam is and what Azam does. Azam is the main actor of that film. He is a student of Al Azhar Mesir whose perseverance to get good future, he had to struggle to pay his way through college. Therefore, he sold tempeh in Mesir to live up her dream. He sold it to everyone from Indonesia. Today, I don't want to tell about KCB or Azam, but I want to tell about Tempe as it is one of unique soy food of Indonesia.