Empowering Scholars: Enhancing Scientific Writing Competence in State Administration Studies at UIN Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau

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Article Info	Abstract
	This activity aims to improve the ability of State Administration Study Program students at UIN Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau to write scientific papers. The main problem underlying this activity is students' limited understanding and skills in writing scientific articles, especially in paraphrasing, making quotations, and reference management. To overcome this problem, assistance is provided in writing scientific articles using paraphrasing techniques (manual paraphrasing and using tools), citation techniques, and the use of the reference manager application (Mendeley). In this activity, the service team collaborated with the State Administration Student Association of UIN Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau. Based on the initial assessment, not all participants were proficient in paraphrasing, making quotations, and reference management. After carrying out this service activity, all participants were able to paraphrase sentences, quote, and use reference management applications. This activity ended with the creation and publication of a Mendeley manual book on the website of the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, UIN Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau, so that it could provide widespread benefits.

	Abstrak
	Kegiatan ini bertujuan untuk meningkatkan kemampun mahasiswa Program Studi Administrasi Negara Universitas Islam Negeri Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau dalam pembuatan karya tulis ilmiah. Masalah utama yang mendasari kegiatan ini adalah keterbatasan pemahaman dan keterampilan mahasiswa dalam pembuatan artikel ilmiah, khususnya dalam melakukan paraphrase, membuat kutipan, dan manajemen referensi. Untuk mengatasi permasalahan tersebut maka dilakukan kegiatan pendampingan penulisan artikel ilmiah barupa teknik paraphrase (paraphrase manual dan menggunakan tools), teknik pengutipan, dan penggunaan aplikasi reference manager (Mendeley). Pada kegiatan ini tim pengabdi berkolaborasi dengan Himpunan Mahasiswa Administrasi Negara Universitas Islam Negeri Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau. Berdasarkan penilaian awal, tidak semua peserta mahir dalam melakukan paraphrase, membuat kutipan, dan manajemen referensi. Setelah dilakukannya kegiatan pengabdian ini, seluruh peserta telah mampu untuk memparaphrase kalimat, melakukan pengutipan, dan menggunakan aplikasi manajemen referensi. Kegiatan ini diakhiri dengan pembuatan dan publikasi manual book Mendeley pada website Fakultas Ekonomi dan Ilmu Sosial Universitas Islam Negeri Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau agar dapat memberikan manfaat secara luas.

1. INTRODUCTION

Writing is a form of expression and communication that involves the use of words to convey ideas or information from the writer to the reader. Writing activities not only require technical skills such as good grammar and spelling but also involve the ability to arrange words in a creative, persuasive, or informative way (Sari & Heriyawati, 2020). Writing is an

exploratory activity where the writer discovers and develops thoughts through writing. The writing process is an iterative activity that involves drafting, revising, and continuously improving the writing (Erdayani, 2023).

Reading comprehension and the writing process are closely related. The importance of reader experience as part of the writing process is that writers must consider potential readers' responses to their writing (Salehudin, 2022). The writing process includes three main stages, namely exploration, planning, and implementation. Writing is a way to process thoughts and ideas, and writers go through these stages when developing their writing (M. Afandi et al., 2023). Writing is the most complex language skill because it involves not just copying words or sentences but also developing ideas that are expressed in written form (Supriani et al., 2020).

Scientific writing is a form of writing that is systematic, structured, and closely related to scientific research methods. The main aim of scientific writing is to present the results of scientific research or analysis clearly and accurately by referring to the ethical and methodological standards that apply in the scientific world (S. A. Afandi, Afandi, et al., 2022). Some of the main characteristics of scientific writing are objectivity, scientific methodology, defined structure, references to scientific literature, accuracy and certainty, formal writing style, and the aim of clarification and scientific contribution (Abdusshomad et al., 2022; Daumiller et al., 2019).

Scientific writing plays an important role in the dissemination and development of science. The peer review process, where scientific papers are assessed by experts in the field, is also an important step in ensuring the quality and validity of the information presented in scientific papers (S. A. Afandi, Aswad, et al., 2022). Scientific writing is work that results from writing activities by applying scientific principles, prioritizing aspects of rationality, and raising objective and factual problems (Hanafiah et al., 2021; Harared & Iriyansah, 2021). Scientific writing basically includes three sub-competencies that complement each other, namely the competency to search for library sources, the competency to carry out research actions, and the competency to write (S. A. Afandi, Aswad, et al., 2022; Puspita et al., 2021; Putra, 2019).

A common problem found among students of the State Administration Study Program at Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau State Islamic University is a lack of knowledge and skills in writing scientific papers. After conducting a survey and mapping, this problem was predominantly found in students in semesters 1, 3, and 5. The main problems faced by students in this semester were limitations in paraphrasing sentences, limitations in quoting, and limitations in reference management. These three things have an impact on the quality of the scientific writing produced. On the other hand, the university has adopted a policy of publishing articles in accredited national journals of at least Sinta 2 as a replacement option for the thesis exam.

To improve the ability of students in the State Adbmination Study Program at Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau State Islamic University to write scientific papers, especially by increasing students' opportunities for publication in the accredited national journal Sinta 2 as a substitute for thesis exams, is the main basis for the importance of this activity. Scientific publications in reputable journals are a parameter for research that is considered quality. Scientific publications will contribute to the dissemination and practical application of valuable ideas so that they will be of great benefit to society (Anwar, 2021; Lambovska & Todorova, 2022).

2. METHODS

The approach used in this activity is the Participatory Learning Method (PLM). This approach emphasizes the learning process, where training activities are built on the basis of participants' participation in activities, giving rise to two-way interactions (Supriani et al., 2020). This activity will be carried out offline in October 2023. Participants in this activity are students of the State Administration Study Program at Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau State Islamic University, semesters 1, 3, and 5. This limit is based on the results of a survey regarding the ability to write scientific articles, which was carried out before carrying out the activity.

In this activity, the service team collaborated with the State Administration Student Association of Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau State Islamic University. These partners play an active role in serving to determine participants for this activity, while the service team acts as a resource person. The tools used in this activity are a laptop, a projector, and a sound system. The material presented includes paraphrasing techniques, text quoting techniques, and reference management. The stages in this service activity include: problem mapping, determining activity participants, determining solutions for problem solving, carrying out pre-tests, providing material by resource persons, carrying out post-tests, and carrying out comprehensive activity evaluations.
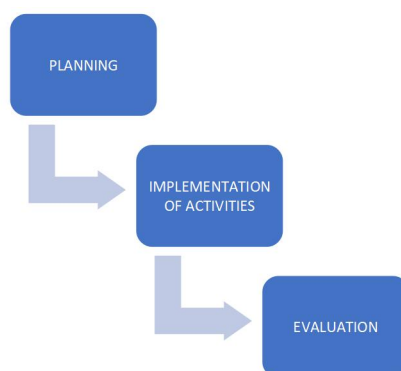

Figure 1. Devotion method

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The target of this activity is to increase the ability of students in the State Administration study program at Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau State Islamic University to write scientific articles. The problem solved through this activity is students' difficulties in writing scientific articles. This problem was solved by providing material regarding paraphrasing techniques, the use of artificial intelligence for paraphrasing, citation techniques, and the use of Mendeley for reference managers.

This activity was held for one day on October 14, 2023. The number of participants in this activity was 40. Participants in this activity are students of the State Administration Study Program at Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau State Islamic University, semesters 1, 3, and 5. This limit was made on the basis of students' abilities in writing scientific articles obtained through surveys.

The ability to write scientific papers is important for State Administration students at Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau State Islamic University because they are required to write a thesis as a graduation requirement. Students are also given the option to publish articles in accredited national journals of at least Sinta 2 as a graduation requirement in lieu of a thesis. Both theses

and article publications certainly require students to have scientific writing skills so that these obligations can be fulfilled.

The initial condition was based on the pre-test results, namely that the participants did not fully understand the paraphrasing technique, and none of the participants knew how to use artificial intelligence to paraphrase. Participants also did not fully understand the techniques for citing a text. In general, participants still understand quoting as the act of copying a text from the original source and writing down the source of the quotation. Furthermore, participants also did not fully know the reference manager application. Generally, participants still manage references manually. The participants who already knew about the application did not fully use it because they did not understand how to use it.

Figure 1. Activity Documentation

The following is a summary of the material given to participants in this activity:

1. Paraphrasing Technique

Paraphrasing is the process of rearranging ideas or information from a text using different words while still maintaining the same meaning or essence. The purpose of paraphrasing is to convey a message or piece of information in a style or expression that is different from the original text without changing the core meaning or concept conveyed. Paraphrasing can be used to avoid plagiarism, clarify concepts, or provide variety in conveying information. The following are several techniques for paraphrasing a text:

1) Changing the sentence structure: Rearranging the sentence structure can give a different feel to the text. For example, changing from active to passive voice or vice versa. Example: "The company launched a new product" becomes "A new product was launched by the company".

2) Replace words with synonyms: Use a dictionary or thesaurus to find words that have similar meanings. Make sure the synonym you choose fits the context of the sentence. Example: "The car accelerated quickly" becomes "The vehicle sped up rapidly".

3) Changing the text format: Changing the text format can give a different feel to the same information. Example: "She carefully examined the ancient manuscript, trying to decipher its meaning" becomes "As she scrutinized the old manuscript, she pondered over its significance".

4) Add or subtract details: Adding or subtracting details can affect the way the reader understands the text. Make sure the essence of the information is maintained. Example: "The detective carefully analyzed the crime scene, noting every detail" becomes "The investigator examined the scene meticulously, paying attention to each aspect".

5) Change the language style: adapt the language style to the situation or intended audience. Example: "The committee will convene to discuss the matter" becomes "The group will get together to talk about the issue".

6) Reformulation of ideas: Changing the order of ideas or information to provide a different perspective on the text. Example: "The chef first prepared the appetizer, followed by the main course" becomes "Beginning with the main course, the chef then crafted the appetizer".

2. Quotation techniques

Text citation refers to the practice of including or incorporating part or all of the text from a particular source into a piece of writing or work, often with the aim of providing support or authority to the argument or information presented. Citations can include direct quotations, where the text from the original source is copied exactly, or indirect quotations, where ideas or information from the source are presented using new words. Text quoting is generally used for several purposes:

1) Providing evidence or support: Text citations can be used to provide support or evidence for an argument or claim put forward by the author.

2) Respect copyright: By citing text, the author acknowledges the copyright of the original source and gives credit to the author or party who owns the copyright.

3) Demonstrate credibility: Citing text from reputable or trusted sources can increase the credibility of the writing or work.

4) Avoid plagiarism: By citing sources, authors can avoid plagiarism, which is the use of someone else's ideas or text without giving proper credit or references.

Citing text involves citing sources, such as the author's name, title of publication, and year of publication, to provide readers with information about the origin of the information. Citation styles can vary depending on the writing rules or guidelines used, such as APA, MLA, or Chicago Style.

3. Reference management

Reference management is the practice of compiling and managing references or sources of information used in a written work, such as a paper, thesis, or article. The main goal of reference management is to give credit to the original author, make it easier for readers to trace sources of information, and ensure the accuracy and consistency of quotations in an article. Here are some important notes:

1) Reference recording: Record all necessary information from each source used. This information usually involves the author's name, publication title, year of publication, publisher, and page number.

2) Use of appropriate writing style: following certain guidelines or writing styles (such as APA, MLA, Chicago, and Harvard) for citing and organizing references. Each style has specific rules for citation and reference format that must be followed.

3) Grouping and organizing: grouping references based on certain topics or categories to make management and search easier later. Some reference management tools, such as EndNote, Zotero, or Mendeley, can help with this grouping.

4) Accuracy in quotations and paraphrasing: Include accurate quotations or paraphrases for any information taken from external sources. This involves giving proper credit and avoiding plagiarism.

5) Maintaining the freshness of information: ensuring that the references used are still relevant and up-to-date. In some fields, especially science and technology, new sources continue to emerge, so reference management needs to be updated regularly.

6) Digital resource management: Reference management also involves digital sources, such as online articles, e-books, or other electronic information sources. This includes handling URLs, DOIs (Digital Object Identifiers), or other links according to the writing style used.

7) Preparing a reference list: Arrange a reference list or bibliography neatly according to the rules of the chosen writing style. This list should include all sources cited or referenced in the paper.

Figure 2. Mendeley Manual Book

Reference management helps maintain the academic integrity of a work, provides insight into the literature that supports arguments or findings, and facilitates the reproduction or verification of research by others. By using the right reference management tools (such as Mendeley), authors can more efficiently manage and reference information sources. After carrying out this service activity, based on the results of the post-test conducted, it was concluded that there was an increase in participants' skills in paraphrasing a sentence, an increase in skills in making quotations, and an increase in skills in reference management.

Based on the results of a comprehensive evaluation, this activity has succeeded in improving participants' skills in writing scientific papers. However, the service team found that the participants' skills in reference management, especially the use of Mendeley, were still low compared to their paraphrasing and quoting skills. For this reason, the service team took the initiative to create a Mendeley manual book, which can be widely accessed via the link: https://feis.uin-suska.ac.id/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/panduan-mendeley-final.pdf.

This manual book has been published on the website of the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau State Islamic University, with the hope of providing wider benefits, not only for participants in this service activity but also for all students of the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau State Islamic University. It is even hoped that it will be wider because it is open-access, so it can be visited by anyone, anytime, and anywhere.

4. CONCLUSION

This service activity is based on the main problem, namely the limited skills of State Administration students at Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau State Islamic University in writing scientific papers, especially students in semesters 1, 3, and 5. In this activity, the service team collaborates with the State Administration Student Association at Sultan Syarf Kasim Riau State Islamic University. Based on the problem mapping carried out, to overcome the problems faced by participants, the service team provided material regarding paraphrasing techniques, text quoting techniques, and reference management to participants. The service team also introduced artificial intelligence and applications that can make it easier for participants to write scientifically, including having a positive impact on the quality of the scientific writing produced. By holding this activity, it appears that there has been an increase in participants' understanding and skills in writing scientific papers. This activity ended with the publication of the Mendeley manual book on the website of the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau State Islamic University, so that it can be widely accessed.

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