

Data Sheets for Discourse Analysis #2

Team Name: _____

In this exercise, you are asked to analyze the type of punctuation, the grammatical person, and the formality of the language used in your assigned article.

The goal is to generate some data about how language is used in professional journals in order to increase your awareness. The analysis criteria are outlined below and in the pages that follow.

- 1. Open vs. Closed Punctuation:** Does the sample always include commas in lists before the final element (Open: “The ball was red, green and blue.” vs. Closed “The ball was red, green, and blue.”)? Does the sample always include commas after introductory phrases (Open: “Above all you should check your spelling.” vs. Closed: “Above all, you should check your spelling.”)?

- 2. Semicolons and Dashes:** Does the article use any semicolons or dashes for punctuation?
How frequently?

3. **Grammatical Person:** Does the article use 1st person (“I” or “We”) anywhere?
How frequently?

- 4. Language Formality:** How formal is the language? Does the article use any idioms (e.g., “rule of thumb”) or colloquialisms (e.g., “a lot”, “besides”, “nowadays”)?

- 5. Readability:** Please run the paragraphs you selected for Discourse Analysis #1 through the grammar checker in Microsoft word. Record the following statistics: Sentences per paragraph, Words per sentence, Characters per word, Percentage of passive sentences, Flesch-Kincaid grade level score.

- 6. Other Issues:** Did you notice anything else that is distinctive or unusual about the language used?