Outline of the AuthorAID Online Course in Research Writing

Updated 30 May 2014

Introduction

This free online course is offered regularly to researchers in developing countries. The course is spread over 5 weeks and taught on INASP Moodle. At least one facilitator is present in the course, who takes responsibility for answering learners' questions on the discussion forum, supporting learners facing difficulties, and evaluating learners' work.

Learners are selected for each course following a competitive application process. Calls for applications are announced on the AuthorAID blog. Learners are asked to devote at least 3 to 4 hours per week on the course. Course completion certificates are issued by AuthorAID to learners who complete the lessons and activities.

Outline of the course

Week 1   Lesson 1: Approaching a writing project
                Lesson 2: Publishing a paper in a journal
                Lesson 3: Authorship
                        Activity 1 (quiz): How well can you read instructions to authors?

Week 2   Lesson 4: Tables and figures
                        Activity 2 (peer assessment): Submit a table or figure
                Lesson 5: Citations and references
                        Activity 3 (knowledge sharing): How do you access published papers?

Week 3   Lesson 6: Abstract
                        Activity 4 (quiz): Correct some sentences
                        Activity 5 (tutor assessment): Submit your abstract
                Lesson 7: The introduction section

Week 4   Lesson 8: Methods
                Lesson 9: Results
                Lesson 10: Discussion
                        Activity 6 (peer assessment): Submit a section from your paper

Week 5   Lesson 11: Title
                        Activity 7 (informal assessment): Draft a title
                Course feedback and wrap-up

A discussion forum remains open throughout the course for learners to ask questions and interact with others.

We try to keep improving the course, so the outline presented above may change from one course to the next.

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