

A Locally Situated Land-based Indigenous Writing & Pedagogy Guide

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Vision and Process

A writing guide that is situated in local Indigenous Peoples' Knowledges

The project is grounded in a recognition of how Indigenous Knowledges (IK) and Land ethics are embedded in Indigenous languages and is informed by movements to revitalize Indigenous languages, to indigenize curriculum, to understand the Indigenous canon and Indigenous style (Kirkness, Archibald, Armstrong, Younging), and is informed by concerns Indigenous communities continue to have regarding IK in the public domain (Smith, OCAP, McCracken and Hogan), and by recent calls for linguistic justice within composition studies (Horner et al.). Further this project sought to rectify inequities in access to education that reflects Indigenous Peoples perspectives regarding history and regarding the future.

- Through a Syilx advisory our project situated itself in Syilx contexts, Knowledges, values, ways of knowing, stemming from mutually reciprocal ethics in regard for, and in relationship with Land.
- The Indigenous writing guide has a digital OER platform version and includes questions regarding the sharing of Indigenous Knowledges (IK).

- Most importantly the guide presents ways into academic writing that are culturally in tune with Indigenous students' preferred ways of learning and communicating their learning and knowledge. The guide supports and empowers students to celebrate and build on the funds of knowledge they bring with them to university.

Timeline as a spatial circle



Indigenous Student Focus Groups

What the students said		
Infographic	Digital	PDF
Traditional Knowledge	Circular Spiderweb	Land opportunities
Local IK		
Their own IK		
Research & Knowledge Documentation ≠ essay	Peer sharing	Rubric & Feedback

Pressbooks

Pressbooks offered very intuitive steps for creating book components with a professional design output.

Multimodal Components

With the support of the Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies media staff we were able to create short videos as part of our guide's multimodal pedagogical offering. We interviewed two Indigenous Métis students about their writing experiences at university and their vision for an ideal writing education experience. Indigenous Access Students in English 104 classes appreciated these videos. We also interviewed Secwépemc and settler faculty, Tania Willard, whose work centers Land as a place of first knowledge, expanding on a concept of site/ation. Just like we cite knowledge in text, site/ation offers opportunity for Indigenous students to site knowledge from the Land in their writing.

Models for the Guide

- Four Feathers (Island Coast Salish) Royal Roads University
- The Elements of Indigenous Style* (Greg Younging)
- Open Educational Resources (BCCampus)
- Syilx Peoples' Ways of Knowing (Millennia proven)

Keywords:

- Indigenous Peoples' Knowledges,
- Indigenous Writing Style
- Writing Assessment
- Linguistic and Compositional Justice
- Open Education

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