The Grad Academy  
Saturday, November 7, 2020  
University of Iowa

9:00-10:10 – Introductions and Session 1: What is Impostor Phenomenon?

In this session, we develop a safe space for participants, define impostor phenomenon (IP), and share our own struggles with impostor feelings. We present the primary characteristics of IP victims and its effects, specifically the frequency of “impostors” in higher education.

10:10-10:20 – Break 1

10:20-11:20 – Session 2: Disciplinary and Academic Literacies

This session serves as a foundation for subsequent sessions. We discuss how our disciplines affect how we read, write, and think. Drawing on literacy research, we demonstrate that all novices have to develop literacy skills specific to their own discipline and explain how this literacy gap can induce impostor feelings. We present rhetorical moves in academia and demonstrate how they are used in the social sciences.

11:20-11:30 – Break 2

11:30-12:30 – Session 3: Academic Reading

Based on content area reading strategies, this session demystifies the challenging process of reading an academic journal article. We demonstrate how to use the SQ3R strategy to read an unfamiliar article, how to identify different types of articles, and how to read with purpose. Tips for note taking and critical thinking while reading an article are also discussed. This session includes a “blind read” by the presenters, with opportunities for students to practice their new skills.

12:30-1:20 – Lunch

1:20-2:20 – Session 4: Academic Writing

In this session, we introduce the literature review as a critical step in research and an essential piece of scholarly work. We present common ways students approach reviews incorrectly and teach them how to synthesize academic sources. This session includes practice opportunities.

2:20-2:30 – Break 3

2:30-3:30 – Session 5: Research Productivity and Efficiency

In this final session, we model successful research strategies, including organizing and keeping up to date with academic literature, and how to use new technologies to increase productivity and efficiency.

3:30-4:00 – Debriefing