

# Kʷu cyƛap: A Locally Situated Land-based Indigenous Writing 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 movements to revitalize Indigenous languages, to indigenize curriculum, to understand the Indigenous canon and Indigenous style (Kirkness, Archibald, Armstrong, Younging). 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.), 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 Land.
- The guide presents ways into academic writing that are culturally in tune with Indigenous students’ preferred ways of learning and of 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.

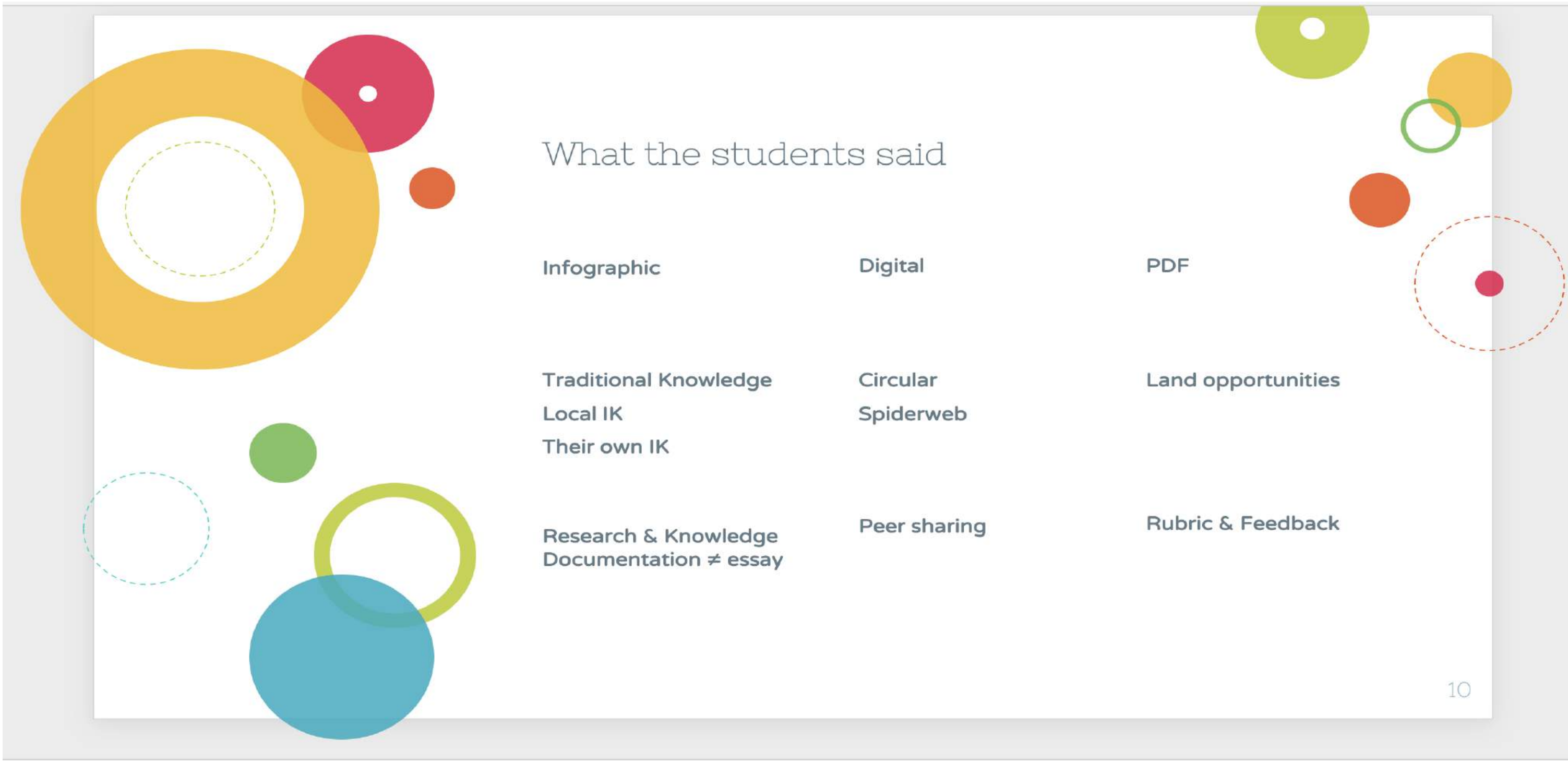
## Multimodal Components

With the support of the Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies media staff we created short videos as our guide’s multimodal pedagogical offering. Included are videos of two Métis students sharing their writing experiences and their vision for an ideal writing experience at university. Indigenous Access Students in English 104/114 classes appreciated these videos. We interviewed Secwépemc/settler faculty, Tania Willard, whose work centers Land as a place of first knowledge and 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.

### Indigenous Student Focus Groups

Focus groups were held to learn from Indigenous students about what they wanted to be included in their writing education at UBCO.



## Courses

Students use the Kʷu Cyƛap Guide in these courses:

- English 104  
University Writing: Indigenous Perspectives
- English 114  
Studies in Composition: Indigenous Perspectives
- English 202/ Indigenous Studies 202  
Interior Salishan Literatures
- Communications and Rhetoric 206  
Communicating indigeneity
- English 394J/Cultural Studies 499  
Salishan TEK informed Land Based Storied Internship

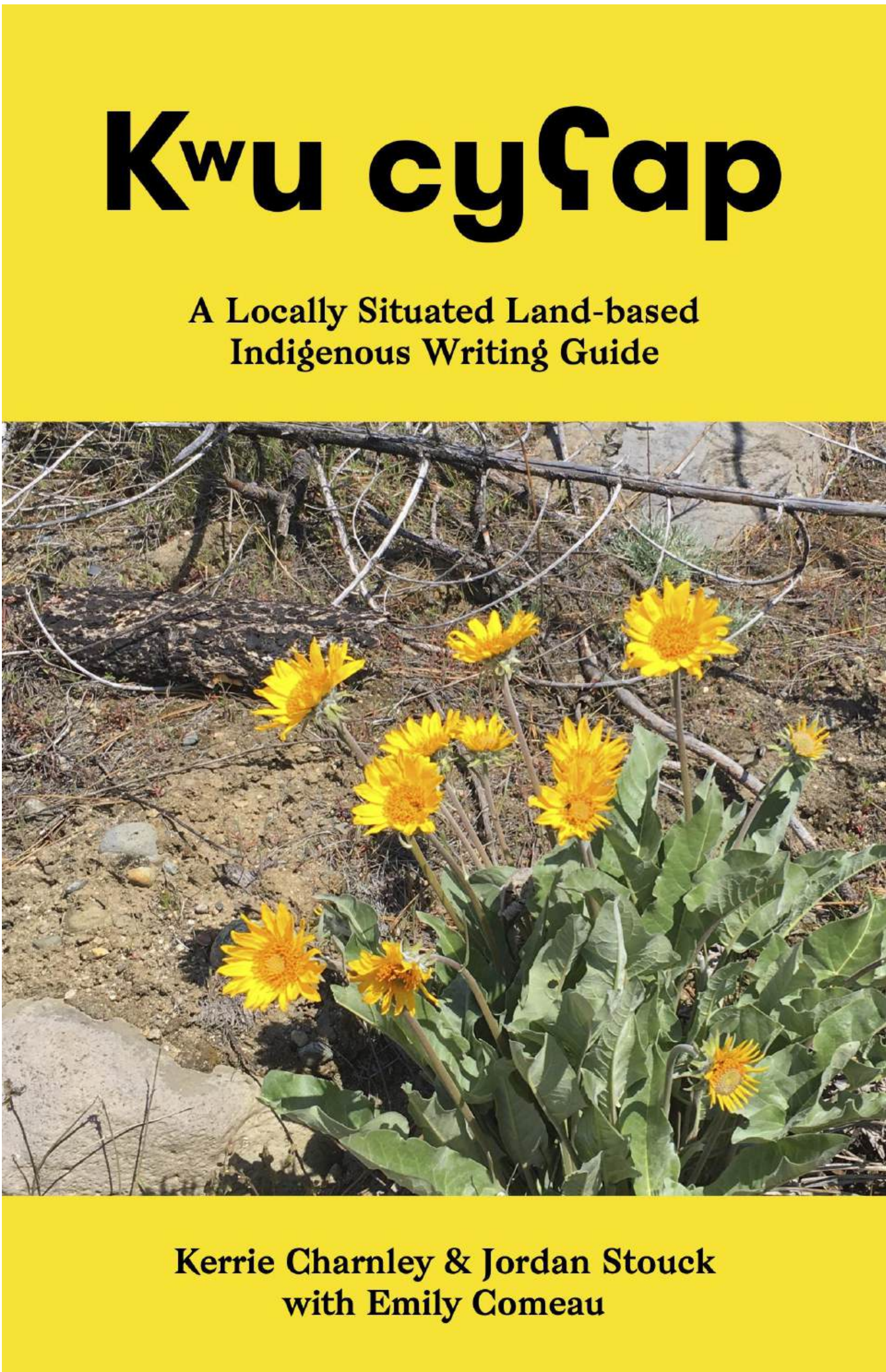
## Book Design and Formats

**Digital OER:** Pressbooks offered intuitive steps for creating book components

## Downloadable Print Format

With the help of a graphic designer, Matt Arthur, we designed a downloadable version in booklet format.

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## Keywords

Kʷu cyƛap (nsyilxcn): we have arrived  
Indigenous Peoples’ Knowledges  
Indigenous Writing Style  
Writing Assessment  
Linguistic and Compositional Justice  
Open Education

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- Meadow Arcand, student member

## Models for the Guide

Four Feathers (Island Coast Salish) Royal Roads University  
*The Elements of Indigenous Style* (Greg Younging)  
Syilx Peoples’ Ways of Knowing (Millennia proven)

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