Hedges and Boosters — Homework Activities

## 1. Data Digging

Load the **Professional Writing** data set in AntConc.

Run a concordance for *may*. Sort the concordance by 1R/2R/3R. In the space below, write down at least five verbs that illustrate instances where *may* is used as a hedge.

Next, run a concordance for *will*. Sort the concordance by 1R/2R/3R. In the space below, write down at least five verbs that illustrate instances where *will* is used as a booster.

2. Writing Practice

Rewrite the sentences below by replacing the deleted material with hedges and boosters that are more appropriate for a technical or scientific text. You can place the new hedge or booster anywhere in the sentence.



1. Bats are ~~pretty~~ interesting animals.

Click or tap here to enter text.
2. People believe that bats feed on blood, but ~~actually~~ the majority of bats are fruit-eaters.

Click or tap here to enter text.
3. Bats are ~~totally~~ useful to humans in many ways: bat dung is used as fertilizer, and bats control pest populations.

Click or tap here to enter text.
4. Bats can pose ~~kind of~~ a threat to humans because they are natural reservoirs of many pathogens such as rabies.

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. Bats are ~~often~~ associated with darkness, malevolence, witchcraft, and death.
Click or tap here to enter text.
2. The delicate skeletons of bats do not fossilize well: ~~around~~ 12% of bat genera that lived have a fossil record.
Click or tap here to enter text.
3. Many bats can drop their body temperature to 43-86 °F and thereby reduce their energy expenditure ~~for real~~.
Click or tap here to enter text.
4. The University of North Texas hosts the largest artificial bat roost in the world, with 400,000 residents, ~~give or take a few~~.
Click or tap here to enter text.
5. In China, bats have ~~sort of~~ positive associations with happiness, joy, and good fortune.
Click or tap here to enter text.
6. The largest bats have a wing span ~~in the ballpark~~ of 5.6 ft.
Click or tap here to enter text.