

Academic Writing

An introduction

What is writing

- Writing is an action that we all engage in our day to day lives. There are different styles of writing such as [literary writing](#), [technical writing](#), [creative writing](#), academic writing, etc. Academic writing is the style of writing we use in academic disciplines, which requires a special set of skills.

Academic writing.....

- Students, professors, and researchers in every discipline use academic writing to convey ideas, make arguments, and engage in scholarly conversation. Academic writing is characterized by evidence-based arguments, precise word choice, logical organization, and an impersonal tone. Though sometimes thought of as long-winded or inaccessible, strong academic writing is quite the opposite: It informs, analyzes, and persuades in a straightforward manner and enables the reader to engage critically in a scholarly dialogue.

Difference between General Writing and Academic writing

- **Writing for non-academic and no-technical purposes** can be described as general writing. This is the style of writing we use in our day to day life. Diary and journal entries, letters, emails, newspaper articles, advertisements, posters, etc. are all written in a general writing style

ACADEMIC WRITING
VERSUS
GENERAL WRITING

Academic Writing is used in research projects, conference papers, essays, abstracts, reports, etc.

General Writing is used in letters, emails, newspaper articles, diary and journal entries, etc.

Uses formal, objective, concise language

Uses informal, semi-formal language

Does not use slang

Can use slang

Does not use contractions

Can use contractions

Always uses referencing and citations

Does not usually use referencing and citations

Academic Writing: Definition

- What is Academic Writing? Academic writing is a style of writing that is **objective, unbiased**, and focuses on supporting information with reliable and credible data and evidence. Academic writing is geared toward contributing to the body of knowledge on a topic or field of study.

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Purpose

To contribute to the field of knowledge on a topic.



Audience

Scholars, researchers, and practitioners within the field of study.



Tone

Professional, unbiased, formal (not conversational), unemotional.



Examples

Research paper, peer-reviewed journal article, textbook, lab report, literature review.

Continued... .

- Academic writing or scholarly writing is nonfiction writing produced as part of academic work. Writing that reports on university research, writing produced by university students, and writing in which scholars analyze culture or propose new theories are all sometimes described as academic writing. Though the tone, style, content, and organization of academic writing vary across genres and across publication methods, nearly all academic writing shares a relatively formal prose writing style and frequent reference to other academic work.

When to use academic writing?

- A broad definition of academic writing is any writing done to **fulfill a requirement of a college or university**. Academic writing is also used for **publications that are read by teacher and researchers or presented at conferences**.
- grammar.yourdictionary.com/word-definiti...

Examples of Academic Writing

- Academic writing is any formal written work produced in an academic setting. While academic writing comes in many forms, the following are some of the most common.
- **Literary analysis**
- **Research paper**
- **Dissertation**

Literary analysis:

- A literary analysis essay examines, evaluates, and makes an argument about a literary work. As its name suggests, a literary analysis essay goes beyond mere summarization. It requires careful close reading of one or multiple texts and often focuses on a specific characteristic, theme, or motif.

Research paper:

- A research paper uses outside information to support a thesis or make an argument. Research papers are written in all disciplines and may be evaluative, analytical, or critical in nature. Common research sources include data, primary sources (e.g., historical records), and secondary sources (e.g., peer-reviewed [scholarly articles](#)). Writing a research paper involves synthesizing this external information with your own ideas.

Dissertation

- A dissertation (or thesis) is a document submitted at the conclusion of a Ph.D. program. The dissertation is a book-length summarization of the doctoral candidate's research.

Characteristics of Academic Writing

- Most academic disciplines employ their own stylistic conventions. However, all academic writing shares certain characteristics.

Clear and limited focus

- The focus of an academic paper—the argument or research question—is established early by the thesis statement. Every paragraph and sentence of the paper connects back to that primary focus. While the paper may include background or contextual information, all content serves the purpose of supporting the thesis statement.

Logical structure

- All academic writing follows a logical, straightforward structure. In its simplest form, academic writing includes an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion. The introduction provides background information, lays out the scope and direction of the essay, and states the thesis. The body paragraphs support the thesis statement, with each body paragraph elaborating on one supporting point. The conclusion refers back to the thesis, summarizes the main points, and highlights the implications of the paper's findings. Each sentence and paragraph logically connects to the next in order to present a clear argument.

Evidence-based arguments

- Academic writing requires well-informed arguments. Statements must be supported by evidence, whether from scholarly sources (as in a research paper), results of a study or experiment, or quotations from a primary text (as in a literary analysis essay). The use of evidence gives credibility to an argument.

Impersonal tone

- The goal of academic writing is to convey a logical argument from an objective standpoint. Academic writing avoids emotional, inflammatory, or otherwise biased language. Whether you personally agree or disagree with an idea, it must be presented accurately and objectively in your paper.

The Importance of Thesis Statements

- Let us say you have just finished an analytical essay for your literature class. If a peer or professor asks you what the essay is about—what the *point* of the essay is—you should be able to respond clearly and concisely in a single sentence. That single sentence is your thesis statement.

- The thesis statement, found at the end of the first paragraph, is a one-sentence encapsulation of your essay's main idea. It presents an overarching argument and may also identify the main support points for the argument. In essence, the thesis statement is a road map, telling the reader where the paper is going and how it will get there.

Key elements

- **Formal style: Writing should not be casual, but be in an appropriate formal way**

Appropriate references

- Generally speaking, the range and organization of references illustrate the author's awareness of the current state of knowledge in the field (including major current disagreements or controversies); typically the expectation is that these references will be formatted in the relevant disciplinary [citation](#) system

Bibliography

- Typically this lists those articles read as background, and will include the sources of individual citations.

Plagiarism

- [Plagiarism](#), the "wrongful appropriation of another author's language, thoughts, ideas, or expressions", and the representation of them as one's own original work is considered [academic dishonesty](#), and can lead to severe consequences.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Academic writers from every field face similar challenges during the writing process. You can improve your own academic writing by avoiding these common mistakes.

Wordiness

- The goal of academic writing is to convey complex ideas in a clear, [concise](#) manner. Don't muddy the meaning of your argument by using confusing language. If you find yourself writing a sentence over 25 words long, try to divide it into two or three separate sentences for improved readability.

A vague or missing thesis statement

- The thesis statement is the single most important sentence in any academic paper. Your thesis statement must be clear, and each body paragraph needs to tie into that thesis.

Informal language

- Academic writing is formal in tone and should not include slang, idioms, or conversational language.

Description without analysis

- Do not simply repeat the ideas or arguments from your source materials. Rather, analyze those arguments and explain how they relate to your point.

Not citing sources

Keep track of your source materials throughout the research and writing process. Cite them consistently using one style manual ([MLA](#), APA, or Chicago Manual of Style, depending on the guidelines given to you at the outset of the project). Any ideas that are not your own need to be cited, whether they're paraphrased or quoted directly, to avoid plagiarism.

References:

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