

Academic Writing

- What is Academic writing?

The writing that is done for scholarly purposes
(Bailey, 2006)

The objective is to create new knowledge through a review of what is currently known about a particular topic as the base for the author's new views on the topic.

(Bailey, 2006)

- Six Main Features of Academic Writing

- Complexity

- Formality

- Objectivity

- Explicitness

- Hedging

- Responsibility

Hedging in Academic Writing

- To be cautious in presenting findings

Example:

1. To indicate new/ emerging research: There is a possibility that...../ Recent studies indicate that...../ It would seem that.....
2. For knowledge that is more established: Studies confirm...../ There is a tendency for...../it is probable that...../ The majority of studies point out.....

Important considerations in Academic Writing

- Purpose
- Audience
- Content
- Register
- Style
- Mechanics

Academic writing is a process

- 1) Planning
- 2) Writing
- 3) Revising

Conventions of Academic Style

- **Avoid contraction (don't , won't...)**
- **Use more appropriate formal negative forms**

(The research **did not confirm any** new.....

The research **confirms no** new.....)

- **Limit the use of run on expressions such as ‘etc’ and ‘and so forth’**

e.g.: These semiconductors can be used in robots, Cd players, etc. —————> These semiconductors can be used in robots, CD players and other electronic devices

- **Avoid addressing the reader as ‘you’**
e.g.: *you can see the results in Table 1*
The results can be seen in Table 1
- **Avoid using personal pronouns such as ‘I’ and ‘we’ except where such use is necessary and acceptable by the respective institution.**
e.g.: *I think it is an effective plan*
This could be an effective plan
- **Refrain from using direct question.**
e.g.: *What can be done to lower cost?*
It is necessary to consider how costs may be lowered

- **Place adverbs within verbs.**

e.g: *Actually, very little is known about.....*

Very little is actually known about the

- **Aim for efficient use of words** (Use as many words as you need to express your points; but try to use no more than you really need)

e.g *It may be difficult to make a decision
about the method that we should use.*

Choosing the proper method may be difficult

- **Avoid using informal/impressive words**

Lots of *many*

Nice *excellent / pleasant*

Big *large*

Things *reasons, problems*

like *such as*

- ***Avoid using hesitation fillers, especially in speech***

Er..

UM

Well

Tense use in academic writing (Research writing)

- Introduction & Literature Reviews

Purpose	Tense
Facts/ truths	Present
Historical facts	Past
To make general statement about previous research or summarise previous research	Present perfect
Report results of one specific study	Past

To introduce a new area or
research

Present perfect

Alternative way of
reporting original author's
opinion

Present perfect

To state your purpose

Present or past

Materials and Method

Purpose

Tense

For general population

Present

For sample

Past

For conventional material; familiar to reader	Present
For specially designed materials	past
For method	Past
	Past perfect
Results	
Purpose	Tense
For specific findings	Past

Discussion

Purpose	Tense
To refer back to hypothesis or purpose	Past
To restate findings , explain findings	Past
To discuss previous research	Past or present perfect
To compare your findings with others' findings	Present
Implications	Present

Reference

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