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Effective academic writing 1 pdf

Kevin Dodge/Blend Images/Getty Images Academic writing is a style of writing governed by rules and practices, such as a formal structure and order, quotations for research to support ideas, and the use of proper spelling, grammar and punctuation. A formal tone is also necessary. Academic writing differs mainly from personal writing because it explores and analyzes theories in depth and explains social customs, problems and events. The structure of academic writing usually includes a beginning, a middle and an ending and is often written in an essay style with a certain structure, such as explanatory, narrative, expository or argumentative. Academic writing also usually requires credible, scientific research to support ideas and theories. Formal quotes in a specified format, such as the Style of the Modern Language Association, are used for in-text citations and a bibliography page. Academic writing can also focus on abstract ideas, concepts and theories, such as analysis of a habit, tradition or behavior in human development. Academic writing requires the writer to write in a formal tone that eliminates all conversational sentences and writes to a particular audience. Often, an audience is determined prior to writing to ensure that the language is attractive and suitable for the audience. In an argumentative essay, students are expected to choose a subject, create a strong argument on that subject, and address the counterarguments to their position. To find material for these types of essays, students may be required to read published research on the subject or conduct their own by doing experiments, surveys or interviews. The structure of an argumentative essay can vary. In some cases, argumentative essays are five paragraphs consisting of an introduction, three body paragraphs that deal with arguments and counterarguments, and a conclusion. In longer essays, students can delve deeper into the contextual issues related to the subject, as well as arguing the points and counterpoints made in the essay. To successfully write an argumentative essay, students need to be sure that their subject is actually debatable. Students should ask themselves if others can argue against their point of view and find ways in which the opposition would respond. Also, to challenge a subject, it should be supported by scientific research and not be based on personal morality or cultural or religious norms. College Writing 2.2x offers an introduction to academic and business writing for English Language learners. In this course, students focus on understanding the requirements of different styles of writing, and work to develop grammatical vocabulary development and revision and editing skills. The five-week course includes material on vocabulary, tone, diction and editing, all in the field of academic and business writing. Students are given the opportunity to write on a number of different topics ideas, always focused on areas of interest to them. The course material is offered through lectures and videos. Assignments include short writing assignments, quizzes, diary entries and longer essays. Refine convincing writing techniques and essay development Get skills for proofreading, self-editing, revision, tone and vocabulary Develop strong English-language writing and communication skills Get an instructor-signed certificate with the institution's logo to verify your performance and increase your job prospects, add the certificate to your CV or resume, or post an additional incentive to complete the courseEdX directly on LinkedInGive , a non-profit, is based on verified certificates to help fund free education for everyone worldwide Students, professors and researchers in each discipline use academic writing to convey ideas, make arguments and participate in scientific conversation. Academic writing is characterized by evidence-based arguments, precise choice of words, logical organization and an impersonal tone. Although sometimes thought of as long-term or inaccessible, strong academic writing is the exact opposite: It informs, analyzes, and convinces in a simple way and allows the reader to critically participate in a scientific dialogue. Academic writing is of course any formally written work produced in an academic setting. While academic writing comes in many forms, the following are some of the most common. Literary analysis: A literary analysis essay examines, evaluates and makes an argument about a literary work. As the name suggests, a literary analysis essay goes beyond mere summary. It requires a careful close reading of one or more texts and often focuses on a specific characteristic, theme or motif. Research paper: A research paper uses external information to support a thesis or make an argument. Research papers are written in all disciplines and can be evaluative, analytical or critical in nature. Common research sources include data, primary sources (e.g. historical data) and secondary sources (e.g. peer-reviewed scientific articles). Writing a research paper involves synthesizing this external information with your own ideas. Dissertation: A thesis (or thesis) is a document submitted at the end of a PhD programme. The thesis is a book-length summary of the research of the PhD student. Academic papers can be done as part of a class, in a program of study, or for publication in an academic journal or scientific book of articles around a theme, by different authors. Most academic use their own stylistic conventions. However, all academic writing shares certain characteristics. Clear and limited focus. The focus of an academic paper - the argument or the research question - is established early by the thesis statement. Each paragraph and sentence of the paper reconnects with that primary focus. Although the document is background or contextual all content serves the purpose of supporting the thesis statement. Logical structure. All academic writing follows a logical, simple structure. In its simplest form, academic writing includes an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion. The introduction provides background information, explains the scope and direction of the essay, and sets the thesis. The body paragraphs support the thesis statement, with each body paragraph working out at one supporting point. The conclusion refers back to the thesis, summarizes the main points and highlights the implications of the findings of the article. Each sentence and paragraph logically connects to the next to present a clear argument. Evidence-based arguments. Academic writing requires well-informed arguments. Explanations should be supported by evidence either from scientific sources (as in a research paper), the 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 purpose of academic writing is to convey a logical argument from an objective point of view. Academic writing avoids emotional, inflammatory or otherwise biased language. Whether you personally agree or disagree with an idea, it should be presented accurately and objectively in your paper. Most published articles also have abstracts: short summaries of the main points of the document. Abstracts appear in the search results of the academic database, so readers can quickly determine whether the paper is relevant to their own research. Let's say you've just finished an analytical essay for your literature class. When a peer or professor asks you what the essay is about – which is the point of the essay – you need to be able to respond clearly and succinctly in one sentence. That one sentence is your thesis statement. The thesis statement, found at the end of the first paragraph, is a one-sentence encapsulation of the main idea of your essay. It provides an overarching argument and can also identify the main support points for the argument. Essentially, the thesis statement is a road map, telling the reader where the paper is going and how it will get there. The thesis statement plays an important role in the writing process. Once you have written a thesis statement, you have established a clear focus for your paper. Often referring back to that thesis statement will prevent you from straying off-topic during the editing phase. Of course, the thesis can (and should) be revised to reflect changes in the content or direction of the paper. The ultimate goal is to capture the most important ideas of your paper with clarity and specificity. Academic writers from all respects faced with similar challenges during the writing process. You improve your own academic writing by avoiding these common mistakes. Wordiness. The purpose of academic writing is to convey complex ideas in a clear, concise way. Cloud the your argument by using confusing language. If you find yourself writing a sentence more than 25 words long, try to divide it into two or three separate sentences for better 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 every body paragraph must bind in that thesis.Colloquial language. Academic writing is formal in tone and must not contain slang, idiom or conversational language. Description without analysis. Don't just repeat the ideas or arguments of your source materials. Instead, analyze these arguments and explain how they relate to your point. Not citing sources. Keep track of your source material during the research and writing process. Quote them consistently using a style manual (MLA, APA, or Chicago Manual of Style, depending on the guidelines given to you at the beginning of the project). Any ideas that are not your own need to be cited, whether they are paraphrased or quoted directly, to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism.