

### Academic Writing

formal style of writing used in universities and scholarly publications that is clear, concise, focused, structured, and backed up by evidence

requires the writer to demonstrate knowledge and show proficiency with skills of thinking, interpreting, and presenting information (Lowe & Zemliansky 2010) as an evaluation

readers = teacher, peers, academic community

### Non-Academic Text / Creative Compositions

to freely express opinions, feelings, and emotions

### Purposes of Academic Texts

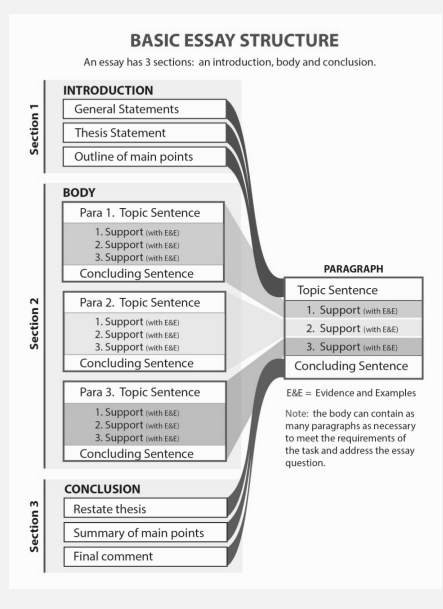
to inform

to explain

to persuade

to argue

### General Structure of an Academic Text



### Academic Language

type of language used in schools (academic settings)

### Features of Academic Writing

**Structured** distinctive structure (intro, body, conclusion)

coherence (logical progression) & cohesion (connection)

**Evidenced** based on information from experts in the field

properly acknowledge in writing through in-text citation and reference section

**Critical** always analyze and evaluate including source

requires a great deal of research in order to develop a deep understanding of the topic

**Balanced** your writing should give consideration to **all sides** of the issue and must avoid being biased

while it is important as an academic writer, your stance on a particular topic is clearly shown

**Precise** reader understands meaning of written text

clear and precise including technical vocab when necessary

**Objective** emphasis is on arguments and information, rather than on the writer

passive structures in sentence construction

**Formal** more formal than everyday writing

### Features of Academic Writing (cont)

complex sentences and avoids contractions and colloquial/informal words and expressions common in spoken English

### Three Types of Academic Vocabulary

**general words** that are **acceptable** for academic use

**academic words** that **frequently appear** in academic texts

**technical words** **specific** to an individual subject area

### Language Used in Academic Texts

**Formal** tone should not sound conversational or casual

use of colloquial, idiomatic, slang, and journalistic expressions should be avoided

**Objective** academic text is based on research and not on the writer's own opinion about a given topic

unbiased - based on facts and evidence and is not influenced by personal feelings

when presenting an argument to the reader, show both sides of the topic and avoid making value judgments

**Impersonal** do not show yourself as the performer of the action

emphasis should be on the information that you want to give and the arguments you want to make, rather than you



### Language Used in Academic Texts (cont)

avoid personal pronouns (i,we,you)

use "it" constructions

### Things to Avoid in Academic Writing

Personal nouns

Personal experience

Directives

Descriptive writing

Informal, conversational tone, including slangs and idioms

Vague expressions

Wordiness

### Examples of Academic Text

**Academic Essay** An academic text that presents a **coherent argument or exploration** of a specific topic (Purdue Online Writing Lab, 2021)

**Report** **presents and analyzes information clearly and briefly** for a particular audience such as laboratory reports, business reports, case study reports, research reports, progress reports, etc. (Smith, 2022)

**Literature Review** critical and comprehensive **analysis of existing scholarly publications**, books, articles, and other relevant sources on a specific topic or research question (Ridley, 2012)

### Examples of Academic Text (cont)

**Concept Paper** A concise document that outlines the main ideas, objectives, and potential outcomes of a proposed **research project or initiative** (Hulley, S. B., Cummings, S. R., Browner, W. S., Grady, D. G., & Newman, T. B., 2013).

**Position Paper** type of argument writing that focuses on a **stance on an issue** and shows how this chosen stance relates to other positions concerning the issue (Writing@CSU, n.d.).

**Critique Paper** **evaluating and analyzing a specific piece of work**. It provides a critical assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the work being reviewed, offering insights and suggestions for improvement

examples of academic text are not limited to these

### Conventions

A way in which something is usually done, especially within a particular area or activity.

These are rules and principles of academic writing that are generally accepted among scholars (IGI Global, 2021), and give distinctive features to academic texts apart from nonacademic texts.



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Published 12th December, 2023.  
Last updated 12th December, 2023.  
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