What is AcademicWriting?

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.



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, peerreviewed journal article, textbook, lab report, literature review.

Why Academic Writing?

An academic writing style is used because it presents scholarly information with an unbiased and credible approach that is expected in scholarly writing. The style and tone of academic writing is followed in order to create a professional, trustworthy piece that is free from bias and works to contribute to the body of knowledge on a topic.

How is Academic Writing Different from Professional Writing?



Format of Professional Writing

- Typically, no titlepage
- Bulleted lists are often used
- Use of bold font or italics for emphasis
- Tables or charts commonly used
- List of resources not typically included
- Often single-spaced (e.g. memos, PowerPoints, reports, emails)



Format of Academic Writing

- Academic style guide is used (such as MLA or APA)
- Conventional paragraphstructure with minimal use of bullet points
- Consistent font used throughout with no use of bold or italics other than section headings
- In-text citations and list of resources always included
- Double-spaced



Style of Professional Writing

- Avoids discipline-specific jargon
- Seldom use of research
- Uses first person point of view
- The purpose is stated directly (e.g. "I am writing to...")
- Uses active voice
- Sentences are direct and concise
- Paragraphs are brief and focused
- Briefintroduction and conclusion



Style of Academic Writing

- Discipline-specific jargon is used
- Scholarly sources are always included
- Uses third person point of view
- Avoids "I" statements

P.I.E. Paragraph Structure

Introductions & Conclusions

- Uses active voice
- Sentence structure and length varies
- Paragraphs are well-developed (using P.I.E. structure)
- Fully developed introduction and conclusion



Active Voice

APA References List

APA In-Text Citations

First Person vs. Third Person

Introduction to APA

Academic Voice