

Mastering Academic Style and Writing Skills

By

Introduction

- Welcome to this presentation on academic writing skills
- Today we'll focus on helping with common writing challenges
- Specifically: academic style, structuring arguments, and proper referencing

Essay Writing Check List

STEP	DEADLINE
PLAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> Understand the question	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Decide your approach to answering the question	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Start thinking about your thesis	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Locate sources and start your research	_____
OUTLINE	
<input type="checkbox"/> Organize your main points for the body paragraphs either in point form or as a mind map	_____
FIRST DRAFT	
<input type="checkbox"/> Introduction	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Thesis/Purpose Statement	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Body: points of discussion and supporting evidence	_____

Meet Nadia

- 18-year-old Moroccan student
- Studying on the Humanities pathway
- Has an essay due in Week 9 (currently Week 3)
- Received feedback to improve:
 - Academic style
 - Argument structure
 - Proofreading
 - References and citations



What is Academic Style?

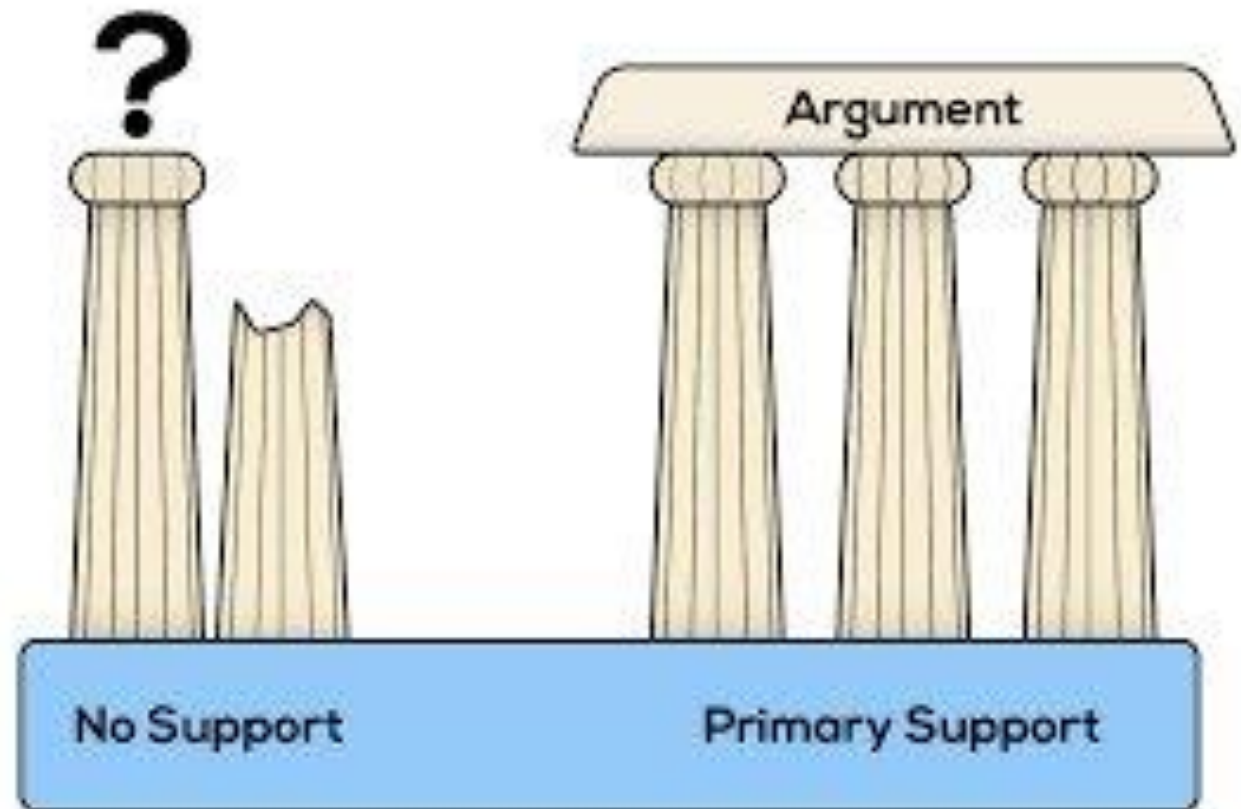
- Formal language that shows critical thinking (Turner, 2011)
- Key features:
 - Objective tone (avoiding "I think" or "in my opinion")
 - Precise vocabulary
 - Clear, concise sentences
 - Evidence-based claims
 - Third-person perspective
 - Appropriate technical terms

A word cloud of terms associated with academic writing, arranged in a circular shape. The words are in various sizes and orientations, with some being more prominent than others. The words include: 'topic', 'Introduce', 'formal', 'maintain', 'Use', 'guish', 'argument', 'section', 'credible', 'text', 'Support', 'clear', 'under', 'phrases', 're', 'accurate', 'arg', 'relationships', 'among', 'cohesion', 'Write', 'evidence', 'relevant', 'ons', 'ledge', 'ns', 'g', 'orts', 'tatement', 'ollows'.

topic
Introduce
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Structuring Arguments in Academic Writing

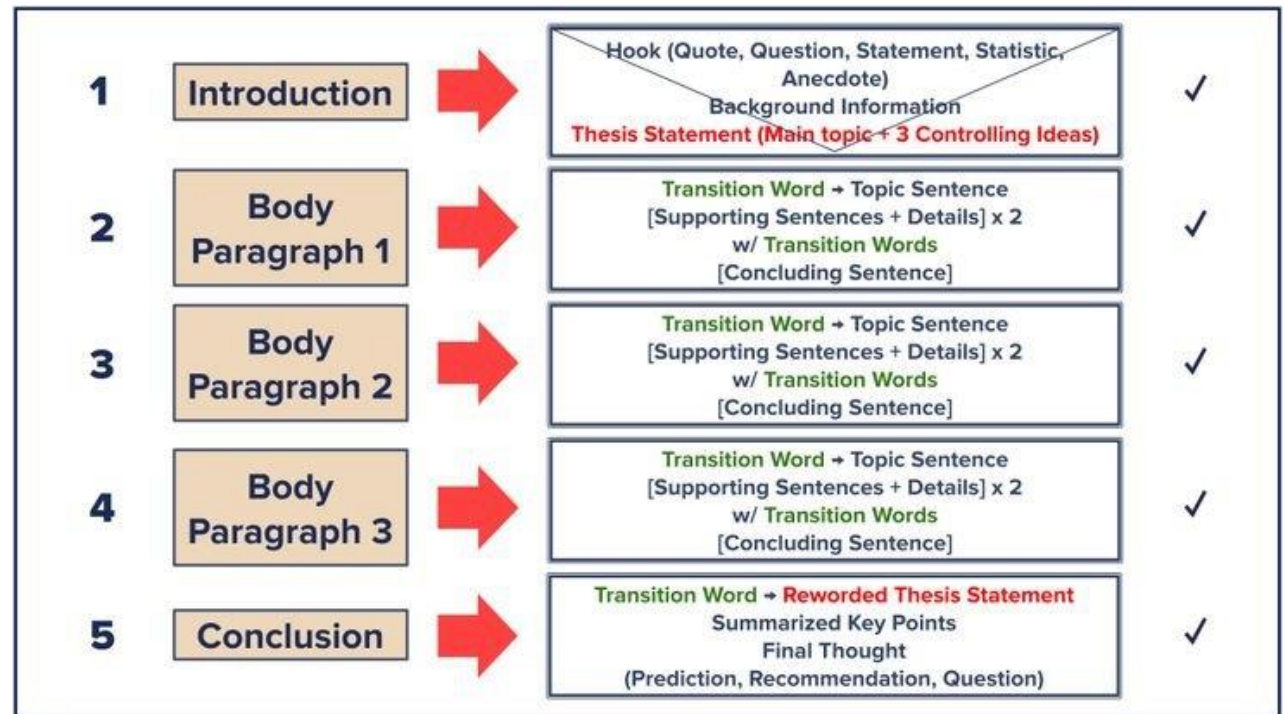
- According to Cottrell (2019), strong arguments follow a clear structure:
 - Make a claim
 - Provide evidence
 - Explain how evidence supports your claim
 - Consider counter-arguments
 - Conclude with the significance



Essay Structure

- Introduction
 - Background information
 - Clear thesis statement
- Body paragraphs (3-5)
 - One main idea per paragraph
 - Logical flow between paragraphs
- Conclusion
 - Restate thesis
 - Summarize key points
 - Final thought or implication

(McMillan & Weyers, 2012)



References and Citations

- Why cite sources?
- Avoid plagiarism
- Support your arguments
- Show your research
- Join the academic conversation

Citations

Becker (2012), Lee (2016), and McAdoo (2017) wrote blog posts about APA Style.

References

Becker, D. (2012, October 4). Cite what you see, cite what you use [Blog post]. Retrieved from <http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2012/10/cite-what-you-see-cite-what-you-use.html>

Lee, C. (2016, November 30). Writing website in-text citations and references [Blog post]. Retrieved from <http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2016/11/writing-website-in-text-citations-and-references.html>

McAdoo, T. (2017, September 20). References versus citations [Blog post]. Retrieved from <http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2017/09/citations-versus-references.html>

Tips for Success

- Start early
- Create an outline before writing
- Write first, edit later
- Use your university writing center
- Find good examples of academic writing in your field
- Ask your tutor to clarify expectations



References

- Cottrell, S. (2019). The Study Skills Handbook (6th ed.). Bloomsbury Academic.
- McMillan, K., & Weyers, J. (2012). Study Skills for International Students eBook. Pearson Higher Ed.
- Turner, K. (2011). Essential academic skills. Oxford Univ. Press.

