

## **Week 1: Introduction to Academic Writing**

### **Lesson 3: Originality, Integrity, and Plagiarism in Academic Writing**

#### **Course Video 1: Originality in Academic Writing**

#### **Study Notes**

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Study Notes: Originality in Academic Writing

##### **1. Meaning of Originality**

Originality in academic writing involves:

###### **a. Novelty**

- Bringing new ideas, perspectives, or insights.
- Contributing something the field has not fully explored before.

###### **b. Value**

- Ideas must be useful, meaningful, and relevant to the discipline.
  - The contribution should help others working in the field.
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##### **2. Originality and Academic Integrity**

- Originality reflects the integrity of the writer.
  - It shows ethical practice:
    - No plagiarism
    - No stealing or misrepresenting others' ideas
    - Respecting conventions of academic writing
  - You present ideas honestly and responsibly.
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##### **3. Originality Does Not Mean Creating Everything From Zero**

- Completely new ideas are rare.
- You are expected to:
  - Build on existing work
  - Extend what is already known
  - Combine existing tools, concepts, or methods to create something new

Example:

Using available tools (battery, solar cells, wires, etc.) to design a new device—your idea is new, but it is built on existing materials and knowledge.

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#### 4. Built on Existing Literature or Facts

- Original academic work must be rooted in:
    - Past research
    - Existing studies
    - Known facts
  - You look at what the field already knows (e.g., solar, wind, wave energy) and add something new or improve what exists.
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#### 5. Reviewing Latest Literature

Originality requires:

- Reading recent studies
- Understanding what has already been explored
- Knowing what results exist
- Identifying what remains untested or unresolved

Without this, you might repeat something already done.

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#### 6. Identifying Gaps

- Look for areas:
  - Under-explored
  - Under-researched
  - Completely unexplored
- Gaps provide opportunities for new research.

Example:

Solar panels produce energy, but discarded panels cause pollution.

A new, long-lasting, non-toxic panel becomes an original idea because it fills a gap.

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## 7. Ensuring Originality: Key Strategies

### a. Review Latest Information

Understand current developments before starting new work.

### b. Add a New Idea or Dimension

Give a fresh angle, interpretation, or insight based on what is known.

### c. Adopt a New Approach

Change methods, tools, or perspectives to produce new outcomes.

### d. Explore New Applications

Test whether an idea or method works in:

- A new geographical area
- A new cultural setting
- A different context

Example: A solution developed in the US—is it effective in India or Brazil?

### e. Work on Under-Addressed or Unexplored Areas

Focus on topics with limited research.

### f. Critique Existing Assumptions

Re-examine what others believe to be true.

Testing and challenging assumptions can produce original insights.

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## Summary

Originality in academic writing includes:

- Novelty and value
- Ethical writing practices
- Building on existing knowledge
- Studying latest literature
- Identifying research gaps
- Adding new ideas or methods
- Exploring new applications
- Challenging existing assumptions

Originality is not about inventing something from nothing—it is about using previous knowledge responsibly to create meaningful, new contributions.

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