

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

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

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

##### **Transcript**

Hello everyone, in this video, we are going to talk about originality in academic writing. Originality is a very important part of academic writing, we will talk about it in some detail in this video. So the first thing that comes to my mind when I think about originality is novelty and value that is attached to your writing. Novelty has to do with when you come up with something new and value has to do with when something that is important, that is necessary. So when you are writing, we are always thinking about conveying something that is novel or that is new and something that is useful that will contribute to the field, to the discipline, to the topic and that will help people anyways, people who are working in the academic area. Let us talk about the next one. It also indicates the integrity of the writer, the academic integrity of the writer. So originality has to do with academic integrity, when you are ethical about what you are writing, you know what you are writing, you believe in it and you are sure about it and you are following the conventions of academic writing. So you are maintaining integrity, you are not stealing anybody's ideas, you are not claiming other's ideas as your own, so these are the things you make sure that those ideas are part of your academic writing practice, that indicates integrity. Next one is, you may not have to develop completely, when you think about an idea, it does not have to be original, your own idea or your own thought, original one, because that is so very difficult, it comes once in a blue, not with, all of us can produce original ideas for the first time, that kind of thing, it hardly happens. What we are talking about here is building on what is available and coming up with something new on the basis of what is already there, that means you are developing your arguments or your ideas on the basis of what is there. For example, if I have a table available, if I have a chair available, I have certain kind of things, let us say battery available, wires available, then I can create something that will work, let us say I will cut my hair, so I will create that machine out of whatever things that are available to me, let us say there is wind outside, you want to generate electricity out of that, so you come up with some kind of arrangement finally which will lead to generation of electricity, that is your idea. But already there is a cell that saves electricity, there are things that you are already using, there is a wheel that is already available, so you are making use of something that is already available. Let us go to the next one. It should be built on existing literature or facts. Literature here has to do with whatever findings that are available in the particular field on a particular topic. So, think about, let us say we talk about green energy, we have sources of green energy, for example, you get energy from waves, you get energy from wind, you get energy from sun, these are the things that are already available. What other sources of green energy you can build on, I mean build on the existing ones and create something, let us say you say that we are creating, getting electricity, solar energy from sun, now we will create something where the battery does not die, the battery that we create to save solar energy, it does not die out, it is not thrown and does not lead to pollution of environment, that is new. So whatever you are creating in academic writing, when originality refers to building on that and creating something, so you

generally convey new ideas or facts. Then carrying out the review of latest literature, so originality has to do with when you go back and thoroughly read what is available and especially the ones that are fresh. Unless you know that this has been done and how much of it has been explored, you cannot create something that is novel or that is of value because it has already been done and people have already explored it really well and there are conclusive results perhaps that are available. So what you need to do is to go back and review the latest literature. It also has to do with identifying gaps in the literature. When you are working on something, you need to know what has been done and what has not been done. So you identify something where there is a scope for further research. For example, if you are thinking about creating a source of green energy with, let us say, the solar panels. When you say that solar panels are there, you will generate electricity also, but there are gaps because these solar panels have thrown out after, let us say, five years and they lead to a lot of environmental pollution. So how I can save in the environment by creating solar panels that will last for, let us say, 50-60 years. Think about it. That is the gap you will be working. Then the next one is thinking about when we, there are ways of ensuring originality. Just think about a few ways in which we can ensure originality. First, if we can review the latest information that is available. Second, if we can add new idea or a new dimension to our thinking, something that is possible and we can do it as researchers and students of academic disciplines, during our pursuit of knowledge, new knowledge, new ideas. Then third, by adopting a new approach, we can change the methods, change the approaches and come up with something new. We can experiment with something like that. Then thinking about something like exploring a new application. A new application means, let us say, you have something, somebody has proposed something and it grew up in the US, would it work in a different setting, new geographical setting like India, let us say, in Brazil, in China, in some other parts of the world, will it work there? Think about it. So if you explore those, it also ensures originality. Then thinking about working on under-addressed or under-explored area or unexplored area, that also leads to originality, that ensures originality. Because you reviewed a threshold literature, you found a gap, you are working on it, that leads to originality. And the last one of it is, if you critique existing assumptions, existing assumptions have to do with, say people have claimed certain things, you are verifying those claims, those also ensure originality. So in this video, we talked about what originality includes in academic writing and also we talked about how we can ensure originality when we are writing. Thank you.