

Week 1: Introduction to Academic Writing

Lesson 2: Purpose, Types, and Features of Academic Writing

Course Video 2: Purposes of Academic Writing

Study Notes

Study Notes: Purpose of Academic Writing

1. Engaging With an Academic Topic or Problem

Academic writing helps researchers:

- Study academic issues, topics, or problems
- Describe experiments, findings, and observations
- Compare new findings with existing research
- Share results with the academic community

Example:

If your lab results differ from previous studies, you must write about them so others can test, verify, or question them.

2. Conveying Ideas to the Academic Community

Academic writing allows you to share:

- Theories
- Hypotheses
- New ideas
- Insights from experiments
- Knowledge gained through reading or experience

Sharing helps others:

- Build on your work
- Test your ideas
- Use your discoveries (e.g., an eco-friendly, long-lasting battery)

Academic writing ensures ideas are communicated clearly, formally, and professionally.

3. Informing, Explaining, Persuading, Analyzing, and Evaluating

Academic writing supports a variety of functions:

- Informing: giving accurate information
- Explaining: making complex ideas understandable
- Persuading: presenting arguments logically
- Analyzing: breaking down ideas or data
- Evaluating: judging the value or effectiveness of ideas

These functions require formal structure, evidence, and accepted academic norms.

4. Sharing Knowledge or Research Findings

Academic writing enables experts (e.g., professors, researchers) to:

- Share what they know
- Publish findings in journals
- Present new discoveries to learners and other researchers

The writing must meet community expectations so others can learn from it.

5. Verifying Claims Made by Peers

Other researchers examine your claims to check:

- If your results are accurate
- If your method works in different situations
- If your ideas hold up under scrutiny

Verification strengthens or challenges existing knowledge.

6. Examining Scientific Methods

Academic writing documents:

- How experiments are conducted
- Which tools and procedures were used
- How data was collected

This allows others to:

- Repeat the method

- Test it in a different lab
- Confirm or question the results

Clear writing ensures experiments are reproducible.

7. Conveying a Point of View

Academic writing allows authors to:

- Present personal viewpoints or arguments
- Support these views with evidence
- Persuade the community logically and objectively

Opinions become meaningful only when backed by credible sources.

8. Reporting the Validity of a Theory

Theories are strengthened or challenged through:

- Further experiments
- Evidence-based writing
- Verification by other researchers

Outcomes:

- If supported → theory becomes stronger
- If contradicted → theory is questioned or revised

Academic writing records these processes clearly and reliably.

Summary

The purposes of academic writing include:

- Engaging with academic issues
- Sharing ideas and findings with the academic community
- Informing, explaining, persuading, analyzing, and evaluating
- Documenting knowledge and research
- Verifying others' claims
- Examining scientific methods

- Conveying arguments and viewpoints
- Reporting the validity of theories

Academic writing ensures that knowledge is communicated accurately, formally, and in a way that allows others to understand, test, and build upon it.
