

Writing Practice

Week 1: Introduction to Academic Writing

Lesson1: Introduction to the Course

01. Aim and Objectives of the Course

Transcript

Hello everyone, welcome to this course called Writing Practice. In this video, we will talk about the aim and objectives of the course. As you know from the title of this course, this is a course on writing and in this course we will be talking about academic writing and norms of academic writing. There are a variety of things related to academic writing that you will learn in this course. Let me begin with this. First thing, you will learn how to write academic text. When I say produce here, I mean only text that you are able to create when you write those texts. For example, you can write a short paragraph describing a chart, a graph, or a diagram, something like that. Or you can write a lab report or you can write your capstone project report. You can write a report on, for example, if you are writing about the kind of research you propose to do for something, you can write a report on that. So I'm talking about a variety of texts that you will be generating during this course. You will learn how to create those kinds of academic texts. Next, we will also learn how to write originally and with integrity. Let me talk about first originality. Originality doesn't have to do with writing on your own all the time or writing only things that are your own. You can depend on a variety of sources, various sources, you can take information from books, you can take information from websites, you can look up, you can talk to people, you can get information from them, you can put them together and write, build your own argument. But when you do so, make sure that you give due credit to the people who have created those information or the ideas or other things that you are taking from them. Give them due credit and we will also learn how to give credit to them when you are producing those texts. Next thing is about integrity. When you are writing originally, you are also thinking about how to write with integrity. Integrity has to do with, you know, you have an ethical attitude towards the using different sources and, you know, and giving credit to people and also thinking about, am I using the sources in a way which will not offend others or which will not, which will create a situation where you will be in trouble or others will feel bad about. Is it happening? So we will learn how to write in such a way that you are in a comfortable position and people whose work you are using are also not unhappy with you. Then we will be talking about the structure of paragraphs, essays and scientific reports. What do you mean by structure? Let's think about this. When you are creating a paragraph, there are different parts of a paragraph that you are putting together. Let me start with this. We are thinking about, for example, the topic sentence and then we are thinking about supporting details and then we are thinking about the concluding sentence in a paragraph. So when you are thinking about topic sentence, you learn how to write a good topic sentence. What are the things that you can add that will support the topic sentence and how effectively you can conclude a paragraph. In the same way, you can also think about essays. When you are writing an essay, you can think of how to write a good thesis statement, how to get the main ideas from the thesis statement and develop them into a

full essay, I mean different paragraphs which will come together to create that essay and then how you conclude it, the concluding paragraph. Think about reports. We will start with how to write the introduction part of a report, how to write the method section of a report, the results of an experiment that you conducted in that report, then how to discuss the findings of the experiment that you conducted and finally how to conclude. Lastly, you will also learn how to write the abstract of a report and then we will also learn how to follow conventions. I talked about it when I talked about originality and integrity. When you follow conventions of academic writing, you do not violate the course of academic writing and you are considered to be ethical, you are considered to have integrity in your writing. Here by conventions, I mean there are rules, all of us we agree, people, we all of us, people who are working in the academia, we all agree with those codes, those norms. You will learn what those norms are and how to follow those norms when you are writing. When you do that, your writing will come out as original, as someone who is writing with honesty and you can avoid things like plagiarism and the downside of plagiarism. These are the things you will learn in this course and you need to do some reading in between and the kind of reading and all that put together when you learn these things and do the readings, do the things that are part of the course like small quizzes and assignments, all that you do, then together they will lead to development of your academic writing skill. This is what the course aims to achieve. Thank you.