

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

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

#### **Course Video 1: Definition of Academic Writing**

#### **Study Notes**

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#### **Study Notes: Definition and Features of Academic Writing**

##### **1. Introduction to Academic Writing**

Academic writing is a formal style of writing used for academic purposes. It is different from general or everyday writing because it follows specific rules, conventions, and expectations.

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##### **2. Purpose of Academic Writing**

Academic writing is used for tasks related to academic work. Examples include:

- Writing examinations
- Research papers
- Lab reports
- Assignments
- Emails to teachers regarding courses or topics

All these belong to the domain of **academic writing**.

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##### **3. Features and Conventions of Academic Writing**

###### **3.1 General Features (Across Disciplines)**

Some characteristics are common in all academic disciplines:

- Formal tone
- Clear organization
- Evidence-based-arguments

These are known as **general academic writing features**.

###### **3.2 Discipline-Specific Features**

Different fields follow their own norms:

- **Computer Science:** Writing conventions differ from those in linguistics or literature.

- **Chemistry:** Sentences can begin with numbers—acceptable in this field but not in humanities.

These discipline-specific norms shape how writing is structured.

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## 4. Conventions in Academic Writing

### 4.1 Writing Conventions

Conventions include:

- What is acceptable within a discipline
- How information is structured
- How terminology is used

### 4.2 Referencing and Citation Styles

Different disciplines follow different citation styles:

- **APA (American Psychological Association):** Used in social sciences
  - **MLA (Modern Language Association):** Common in literature  
Each style has its own rules for in-text citations and reference lists.
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## 5. Audience of Academic Writing

Academic writing is intended for members of a specific **academic community**, such as:

- Teachers
- Peers
- Researchers

Because of this:

- You don't need to define common discipline-specific terms.
  - Your writing should reflect the expectations and knowledge level of that community.
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## 6. Topics Covered in Academic Writing

Topics typically relate to the academic subject you study.

Examples:

- Computer science topics for CS students
- Linguistic topics for linguistics students

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## **7. How Academic Writing Differs from General Writing**

### **7.1 Nature of Rules**

- **Academic writing:** Strict rules and norms
- **General writing:** No strict rules (e.g., texting, informal emails)

### **7.2 Use of Evidence**

- **Academic writing:** Arguments must be supported by **references** and **existing research**
- **General writing:** You can freely express personal opinions without referencing

### **7.3 Purpose and Pattern**

- **Academic writing:** Typically aims to **explore** or **explain** a topic
- **General writing:** No fixed pattern

### **7.4 Language Norms**

- **Academic writing:** Uses formal vocabulary and structured language
  - **General writing:** Flexible, informal, conversational
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## **8. Summary**

Academic writing:

- Serves academic purposes
  - Has discipline-specific and general features
  - Follows established conventions and citation styles
  - Is directed at an informed academic audience
  - Differs from general writing in rules, evidence use, patterns, and language
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