



COMP150: Game Development Practice

Academic Writing & Peer Review

Game Platform History Essay

MORE ON ACADEMIC STYLE



More On Academic Style

At University Level your writing is expected to be:

- Clear, concise and neutral
- Broadly and well researched
- Demonstrating critical thinking
 - Use of appropriate sources (e.g. journals, conference papers)
 - Selection of relevant theories
 - Criticism used to build arguments
- Claims accurate and supported by relevant evidence
- Acknowledging sources of evidence as well as the thoughts, ideas, and work of others

More On Academic Style

Academic writing follows a range of conventions, in that it must be:

- Based on appropriate evidence and sound reasoning
- Presented as a concise and accurate argument.
- Incorporating enough detail so that other researchers can understand and replicate your work

More On Academic Style

These goals are achieved by:

- Aiming for precision
 - Get straight to the point and make every word count
 - Avoid long sentences
- Using cautious language when there are any assumptions or other uncertainties
 - Cautious language includes 'may', 'might', 'could', 'potentially', etc.

More On Academic Style

These goals are achieved by:

- Being succinct
 - Remove repetition or redundancy
 - Focus only on what is important
- Using simple words in place of jargon that has the same meaning
 - Elaborate language makes your writing seem pretentious
 - Except when these words have a technical or subject-specific meaning where appropriate

More On Academic Style

These goals are achieved by:

- Avoiding abbreviations where possible
 - e.g. 'Department' should be used instead of the abbreviation 'dept'.
- Avoiding contractions
 - 'Is not' should be used in place of the contraction 'isn't'.
- Defining acronyms before using them

More On Academic Style

These goals are achieved by:

- Avoiding colloquialisms, conversational terms and the use of street 'slang'
 - 'The individual was sentenced for **nicking** a bike'
 - 'The individual was sentenced for **stealing** a bike'
 - 'This **totally** changed people's lives'
 - 'This **fundamentally** changed people's lives'

More On Academic Style

These goals are achieved by:

- Avoiding vague terms
 - ‘A *nice* addition to the collection’
 - What does the writer mean by ‘nice’?
 - Better expressed as ‘a *popular* addition to the collection’

More On Academic Style

These goals are achieved by:

- Use impersonal language
 - First person is too subjective and personal
 - **We** have considered...
 - **I** observed that...
 - Change the style
 - **Consideration** has been given to...
 - **It** has been observed that...

More On Academic Style

These goals are achieved by:

- Citing evidence to support any statements or arguments
 - **Never** make sweeping statements
 - **Always** back-up what you write
 - Acknowledge the efforts and thoughts of other writers

Activity

Analyse the following paragraph and identify poor academic writing:

Today being fat is totally bad for your health. About 30,000 fat people die every year in the UK and loads more fat people die in the USA. By 2005 more people will die of being fat than smoking and it doesn't have to be this way, this could easily be prevented, couldn't it?

Post what you identify in Slack, with justification.

Activity

Rewrite this section in a different, more academic style, and post it in Slack:

Today being fat is totally bad for your health. About 30,000 fat people die every year in the UK and loads more fat people die in the USA. By 2005 more people will die of being fat than smoking and it doesn't have to be this way, this could easily be prevented, couldn't it?