**HANDOUT 5**

## Effective Academic Writing Style into practice 5

**Hedging to avoid overgeneralizing**

1. **Add a quantifier to the sentence** – e.g. Most women are better at multi-tasking than men.

2. **Add an adverb of frequency** – e.g. Students who leave school at 16 don’t usually get good jobs.

3. **Add a modal verb** – e.g. Working shifts can make employees depressed

4. **Use a tentative verb** – e.g. People today tend to eat too much fast food.

5. **Use a special hedging expression (in majority of cases, in many instances, for many, generally speaking, etc.)**  – e.g. Generally speaking, moving abroad is a very difficult thing to do.

***Exercise 1***

***Read the overgeneralized sentences in Column 1.***

***Use hedging to avoid overgeneralizations.***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Overgeneralizations** | **Your hedged sentences** |
| 1. Red roses cannot survive long winters, because in my garden two red roses died over a long winter. | **Some roses cannot survive long winters, because in my garden two red roses died over a long winter.** |
| 1. Politicians are not honest. | **Generally speaking, politicians are not.** |
| 1. Celebrities have a lot of personal problems. | **Celebrities may have a lot of personal problems.** |
| 1. Older people are short-tempered. | **Older people can be short-tempered.** |
| 1. Developing countries have a lot of issues with pollution. | **Most developing countries have a lot of issues with pollution.** |
| 1. Public transport is very efficient in big cities. | **Usually, public transport is very efficient in big cities.** |
| 1. The cost of living is rather expensive for people. | **For some people the cost of living is rather expensive.** |
| 1. Married life is stressful. | **Sometimes, married life is stressful.** |
| 1. Children should not be allowed to use social networking sites. | **Generally speaking, children should not be allow to use social networking sites.** |
| 1. Youngsters are influenced more by their peers than their parents. | **Youngsters tend to be more influenced by their peers than their parents.** |
| 1. Global warming will become a much more serious issue in the next 20 years. | **Global warming can become a much more serious issue in the next 20 years.** |
| 1. The language barrier is a major problem. | **Most of the time, the language barrier is a major problem.** |

**References**

1. http://blog.myieltsclassroom.com/how-to-avoid-over-generalising/
2. https://owl.purdue.edu/owl\_exercises/sentence\_style/eliminating\_wordiness\_test/eliminating\_wordiness\_exercise\_3.htm
3. https://bestgedclasses.org/overgeneralization/
4. https://ieltsfocus.com/2017/04/04/complex-sentences-ielts/
5. https://www.ieltsg.com/2015/05/3-advanced-ielts-writing-techniques-for.html