Lesson 3: Academic and Technical English

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1 Reading

Students should spend around 20 minutes reading two articles below. Then answer the follow-up questions.

Reading 1: Difference between Technical Writing and Academic Writing

Technical Writing

Technical writing refers to a piece of writing which focuses on providing detailed and lucid information about the product or service. It contains factual and straight forward content. It is entirely goal-oriented and it talks about different ways by which the desired goal can be achieved. Mainly Technical writings are something new or existing concept based on the same technical domain. Here the writer avoids to explain a specific subject matter by providing his/her own point of view.

Example includes suppose a writer writing a article based on the topic comes under computer science domain on GeeksforGeeks.

Academic Writing

Academic writing refers to a piece of writing which focuses on proving a theory or viewpoint in one way or the other and emphasizes upon one specific subject. Through academic writing the writer intends to prove a theory or viewpoint in one way or the other. Mainly academic writings are based on academic findings and academic research. The writer can explain a specific subject matter by providing his/her own point of view.

Example includes suppose a professor writing on a concept related to Chemistry and that published on college's monthly magazine.

Difference between Technical Writing and Academic Writing

Technical Writing:

1. Technical writing focuses on providing detailed and lucid information about the product or service.

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2. Technical writing contains factual and straight forward content.

3. Technical writers should have expert knowledge.

4. Its purpose is getting something done.

5. In technical writing the knowledge of topic is more than the reader who is going through it.

6. Audience of Technical writing may be several people who are specifically belongs to the same technical field.

7. In technical writing graphics, charts and numbers are used very frequently to support conclusion.

8. Technical writing follows subject specific vocabulary.

9. Own or personal point views are not included.

Academic Writing:

1. Its purposes is to demonstrate what a person knows.

2. In academic writing graphics, charts and numbers are sometimes used to explain the concept well.

3. Academic writing follows technical vocabulary.

4. Academic writing focuses on proving a theory or viewpoint in one way or the other and emphasizes upon one specific subject.

5. Academic writing contains contents on specific discipline or field.

6. Audience of academic writing may be a teacher or students or some people related to filed.

7. In academic writing the knowledge of topic is less than the teacher who is evaluating the topic.

8. Own or personal point of view may be included.

9. Academic writers have learners knowledge.

Proving vs. Instructing

Academic writing is all about proving something in one way or the other. Technical writing, on the other hand, is all about instructing how to do something to achieve a specific goal.

Knowledge vs. Solution

Academic writing aims at expanding our knowledge of the world. Technical writing, on the other hand, aims at offering solutions to specific problems that we are faced with in the world.

Win argument vs. Change behavior

Academic writing tries to win a rational argument by offering evidence, precedence, and reference. Technical writing, on the other hand, tries to change our behavior by instructing us on the logical steps through which we can complete a task successfully.

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The above article is extracted from *Medium* website, post "*3 Important Differences Between Academic versus Technical Writing*". It is available online here (accessed on Wednesday 22$^{\text{nd}}$ September, 2021).

2 Questions

Students should spend around 10 minutes on these questions.

1. Show at least one academic article you have read. What did you learn from that article? The article there can be a book, a paper, a magazine, etc.

2. Show at least one technical article you have read. What did you learn from that article? The article there can be a book, a paper, a magazine, etc.

3. In Reading 1, the order of characteristics of Technical writing is correct. However, the order of these ones in Academic writing is mixed. Match each characteristic of Academic writing with a corresponding one in Technical writing so that we have a comprehensive comparison between those styles of writing.

4. Open discussion: in Reading 2, author showed that one purpose of academic writing is to *win argument*. Do you agree or disagree? Can academic writing change behavior? Give an example to support your statement.