

## Handout 3

### *The Basics of Academic Writing Style.*

Work **individually** and try, as much as you can, to **replace the words or phrases in italics with a more academic equivalent**. **Match** the words/phrases *in italics* in Ex. 1 **with one of the AWS rules listed below**.

Today's young people will become tomorrow's scientists, and so their attitudes to science are **(1) *pretty*** important. Unfortunately, **(2) *at this moment in time***, many young people are rejecting a career in science, preferring to become **(3) *businessmen*** instead. **(4) *I think*** one reason for this is that scientists are paid relatively poorly. **(5) *As you saw earlier***, people working in science in the United Kingdom **(6) *don't*** earn as much as those in occupations **(7) *like*** medicine or law. **(8) *Besides***, at the moment, it can be difficult to find a job in science and this can **(9) *put off*** young people from **(10) *thinking about*** a career in science.

**(11) *Quite a lot of*** studies have been conducted that try to identify other factors that influence attitudes to scientists and their work (e.g. Campbell, 1998; Adams, 2003). **(12) *What are some of these factors?*** **(13) *Well***, one important factor is the representation of scientists in the media. **(14) *They're*** often shown as being socially isolated or even **(15) *mad!*** Another factor is the quality of science teaching at school. If a science teacher is interesting and enthusiastic, **(16) *he*** can have a **(17) *big*** impact on whether a student goes to study science at college or university. Unfortunately, in my experience, **(18) *not many*** science teachers are inspirational, although **(19) *the reader*** may have a different experience.

### Academic Writing Style (AWS) Rules

- a) Avoid colloquial words and phrases (i.e. ones used in informal conversation rather than formal writing). .....1.....  
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- b) Avoid long expressions where there are shorter ones with the same meaning. ....
- c) Use a one-word verb rather than a multi-word verb where possible. ....
- d) Unless you are referring specifically to men or to women, use gender-neutral language. ....
- e) Avoid referring to the reader as 'you' or 'the reader'. ....
- f) Avoid contracted forms (e.g. use 'is not' rather than 'isn't').....
- g) Do not use 'like' instead of 'such as' when giving examples. ....
- h) Do not use 'besides' to another, stronger reason. ....
- i) Avoid using questions to organise your writing. ....
- j) Avoid using 'I' (think, believe, etc.) when you express your opinion. ....
- k) Do not use exclamation marks to show your surprise. ....
- l) Use appropriate negative forms ('few' rather than 'not many', 'little' rather than 'not much', 'no' rather than 'not any'.)  
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