

Module CS5052NI

Professional Issues, Ethics and Computer Law

2023

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Introduction to academic writing

- **Academic writing** has certain **qualities** which makes it different from other normal styles of writings.
- The readers are the **primary reason** that **academic writing is different** from other general forms of writing. For students, the **teachers** are the primary readers.



Bloom's Taxonomy of Learning

Step 1: **Knowledge:** Remembering statements or facts.

Step 2: **Comprehension:** Try to understand what you remember by repeating the concepts.

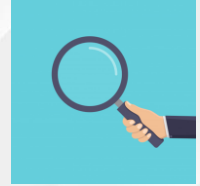
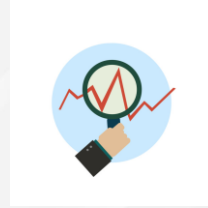
Step 3: **Application:** **Apply** the **new knowledge** to a certain situation.

Step 4: **Analysis:** Break down the information to compare and examine them.

Step 5: **Synthesis:** **Make sense of** researched and analyzed contents and **put together in writing** with clear meaning.

Step 6: **Evaluation:** Make a **judgement**

Being critical in academic writing



- Demonstrate your **knowledge** and **understanding** of various **theories**
- The **awareness** of the subject matter
- **Analysis** of **different views**
- **Reasonings** and **evidence** for different views
- **Critical analysis** of work

Categories of academic writing

Academic writings have different **functions, structures and forms**.

- **Research Proposals:** To deliver proposals for possible research work
- **Lab Reports:** Used for showing the results of experiments
- **Reflective Writing:** Used for subjects which provide knowledge related to **professional** and **employability** skills
- **Case Studies:** A detailed analysis of a situation
- **Project:** Includes **tasks, stages, and deadlines** of the project

Essay

- **Introduction:** Include background **information** on the topic you are writing about.
- **Development:** Write about the **main ideas** with the help of a series of paragraphs.
- **Conclusion:** Include main points of each of the main paragraphs from the previous parts and include a recommendation from your point of view.
- **References:** Provide full detail of the sources which had been considered to complete the essay!

Report

- **First part of the report:** Opening credits of a movie and includes the **title page**, **table of contents** and an **abstract or summary**.
- **Middle part** will have its main **introduction section**, **details on its approach**, **results**, **discussions**, and **conclusions**.
- **Last** part of the report will include details on the different resources you used to complete the writing.
- A key section of report writing is the inclusion of **references** and **appendices**

Critical writing

- **Combination of analysis and evaluation of opinions**, where idea is justified by using **multiple evidence**.
- When writing critically, you are **looking for evidence** and **examples** to defend the written ideas and arguments.
- **It does not mean** you **only look for negative aspects** to talk about.
- The writing is done by **constantly analyzing** and **comparing ideas** and **arguments** with their **advantages** and **disadvantages**, including **proper evidence** for each argument through research, is critical writing in the true sense.

Arguments and discussions

- Another part of **critically** prepared academic writing where you are **expected** to discuss the **positive** and **negative** aspects of the various concepts that you present in your document.
- Based on these **discussions**, you must also **concentrate** on **convincing your readers** that the presented **ideas and concepts** are **correct**.
- So, when you **pass** both **positive and negative opinions supported by evidence**, you will find that it is **easier to convince** your readers that your ideas are, in fact, **correct**.

Presenting arguments

- **Inductive approach:** You **must not commit** to any of the **two sides** of an **argument** and present **both** of them in your writing.
- **Deductive approach:** You announce **your own opinion** of an argument and then try to **persuade** your reader through **evidences** that you are **correct**.

Present **both** arguments to your reader.

Provide reasons **against** your arguments.

Provide reasons **for** your arguments.

State your **own** opinion.

State your **own opinion** of the topic.

Clarify what you are **verifying**.

Provide reasons **against** your arguments.

Provide reasons **for** your arguments.

1. Use of formal language

- Academic writings prefer **formal language** over **spoken language**.

He tried to show that it was possible to be good at video games and still score good grades.

He attempted to prove that being good at video games whilst still scoring good grades was achievable.



2. Use of passive voice

Academic writings prefer the usage of **passive voice**.

They

We

People

You

They have forecasted snow for tomorrow.

Snow is forecasted for tomorrow.

3. Being careful

- Academic writings must be **carefully styled** and **written**.
- **Present evidence** to prove your **claims** and **statements** are **valid**.

Must make
decisions.

Must Provide
evidence.

Must make
careful
statements.

4. Using an objective approach

- Academic writings **must not** refer to the **author** or the **readers**.
- It must be structured for the readers to **understand the process of the work** and its **conclusions**.
- Clearly state that the writing is based on **research**.



Focus on giving information.



Must explain the process of your work.
And Must be based on your research.

- **Avoid** certain words to maintain an **objective approach** in your writing.

I

Me

You

- Always **reference the ideas** in your texts.

5. Avoid using questions

- Avoid using **questions** to **introduce the topic**.

Increasing number of students are selecting Computer Engineering as their major. The reason for this is that many believe....

Many students are selecting Computer Engineering as their major. What may be the reason? Well, they believe....

6. Developing paragraphs in academic writing

- Divide and arrange texts into **multiple meaningful paragraphs**.
- **Continuous writing** makes it hard for the readers to understand.
- The **main idea** of a paragraph must be expressed by a single **topic sentence** at the **start of the paragraph**.
- **Develop** a common **theme** and an **idea** for each paragraphs.
- Include **information**, **explanations** **examples** and conclusions.

Any questions?



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February 14, 2022

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