

ENG100Y1 - English Composition

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1 Introduction to Academic Writing

Academic writing is a formal style of writing used in universities and scholarly publications. Key elements include clarity, coherence, and a formal tone.

1.1 Thesis Statements

A strong thesis statement presents the main argument of your paper. It should be specific and debatable.

1.2 Structure of an Essay

An essay typically consists of:

- **Introduction:** Introduces the topic and thesis statement.
- **Body Paragraphs:** Each paragraph should focus on a single idea supporting the thesis.
- **Conclusion:** Summarizes the main points and restates the thesis.

2 Research Skills

Effective research is crucial for academic writing.

2.1 Types of Sources

- **Primary Sources:** Original materials (e.g., research studies, interviews).
- **Secondary Sources:** Analyses or interpretations of primary sources (e.g., articles, books).

2.2 Evaluating Sources

Consider the credibility, relevance, and bias of your sources.

3 Shakespearean Literature

William Shakespeare is often regarded as one of the greatest playwrights and poets in the English language. His works have had a profound influence on literature, language, and the arts.

3.1 Themes in Shakespeare's Works

Shakespeare's plays explore a wide range of themes, including:

- **Love and Relationships:** Explored in plays like *Romeo and Juliet* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.
- **Power and Ambition:** Examined in *Macbeth* and *Julius Caesar*.
- **Identity and Self-Discovery:** Central to plays like *Hamlet* and *The Tempest*.

3.2 Shakespeare's Language

Shakespeare's use of language is characterized by:

- **Iambic Pentameter:** A rhythmic pattern of five feet per line, often used in his poetry and plays.
- **Wordplay and Puns:** Clever use of language that adds depth and humor to his works.
- **Imagery and Symbolism:** Vivid imagery that enhances themes and emotions.

3.3 Influence on Modern Literature

Shakespeare's impact is seen in countless works across genres and centuries. His exploration of human nature and societal issues remains relevant today.

4 Argumentation

Argumentative writing aims to convince the reader of a specific viewpoint.

4.1 Building Arguments

An effective argument consists of:

- **Claim:** A statement that asserts a belief.
- **Evidence:** Supporting information that backs the claim.
- **Warrant:** Explanation of how the evidence supports the claim.

5 Critical Thinking

Critical thinking involves analyzing and evaluating information.

5.1 Logical Fallacies

Recognize common logical fallacies to strengthen your arguments. Examples include:

- **Ad Hominem:** Attacking the person instead of the argument.
- **Straw Man:** Misrepresenting an argument to make it easier to attack.

6 Writing Style

A strong writing style is essential for clarity and engagement.

6.1 Voice and Tone

Maintain a formal tone and consistent voice throughout your writing.

6.2 Sentence Structure

Vary sentence length and structure to enhance readability.

7 Editing and Revising

Revision is crucial for improving your writing.

7.1 Editing Process

Check for clarity, coherence, grammar, and punctuation errors.

7.2 Peer Review

Sharing your work with others for feedback can provide valuable insights.

8 Citation Styles

Proper citation is essential to avoid plagiarism.

8.1 MLA Format

Commonly used in humanities disciplines, the MLA format has specific rules for in-text citations and works cited pages.

9 Writing Research Papers

Research papers require a more extensive exploration of a topic.

9.1 Organizing Research Papers

Include sections such as:

- **Abstract:** A brief summary of the research.
- **Literature Review:** Overview of existing research on the topic.
- **Methodology:** Explanation of research methods used.
- **Results and Discussion:** Presentation and analysis of findings.

10 Presentations

Effective presentations convey ideas clearly and engage the audience.

10.1 Tips for Presentations

- Use visual aids to enhance understanding.
- Practice to improve delivery and timing.