

A: Prepare draft 2 of the following topics

1. What is English Academic Writing
2. Why does your brain love good story-telling
3. A quick guide to correcting common writing errors

Draft written about :

1. Summarize main points of the reading
2. What is the authors opinion
3. Do you agree with the opinion why or why not?

1. What is English Academic Writing

The great artist Picasso once said, “Good artists copy, but great artists steal”, but he did not mean for artists to truly “copy” or “steal” other works of art. What Picasso did mean was to inherit the ideology that other artists had. This meant that great artists incorporate bits and pieces of inspiration that they gathered and had transformed to their own persona. The same could be said with English academic writing, as we must be able to plan what we will be writing, ask the right questions, transform the information rather than imitate, and give credit to where the inspiration came from.

Not only in the role of an artist, but rather as a student, academic writing makes it necessary to be able to neatly design a coherent set of ideas and write with the reader in mind. To be able to present an opinion with the most logically sound way possible, thesis statements, which are usually used at the beginning of a paragraph, are used to show a clear path from the beginning of a essay, reinforced with examples and data in the middle, and wrap up to the conclusion in the end.

Because all questions can be taken from multiple perspectives, it is important for the writer to be able to make an independent inquiry so as to ask questions and give informed opinions about the topic. Knowing other developed perspectives and opinions about a certain topic strengthens the development to a single conclusion and thus fortifies what is said in the thesis statement.

As Picasso’s quote to steal was not meant to be so literal, plagiarism and citation of original sources is important to creating original works. Creating a independent inquiry requires researching in-depth information, and also searching for developed opinions. Without the correct citation to sources, many “original works” would be considered imitations, as they would only be rehashed copies of what other people have said or done. To be the great artist that Picasso imagined, it is important that we give credit to where it is due just as Picasso gave credit to many avant-garde artists in France with his creation of cubism.

By touching upon key elements such as thesis statements, independent inquiry, plagiarism and citation, and finally paraphrasing, the author gives concrete strategies to forming an academic essay. But one thing that could be said that an academic essay, is that the development of a counter argument which reinforces the current argument to show a more logically structured development is invaluable. Creating room for a counter argument not only shows that the writer was able to take on a complex multitude of perspectives on a single topic, but also creates an engagement to show how this opinion on a topic was chosen in all other considerations of a topic.

2. Why does your brain love good story-telling

Paul J. Zak Summarisation

To capture people's hearts, one must first attract people's brains. Paul J. Zak shows how the neurobiology of storytelling is crucial to have engagement with the audience. Paul shows how we depend on others for our happiness with social experiments around the neurochemical called oxytocin, which is produced when we are trusted. Oxytocin, elevates our sense of empathy for others and correlates with our happiness as it plays a role in the intimacy and social bonding with others. Oxytocin not only shows how we need others for happiness, but also relevant to business settings as Paul shows how we are substantially more motivated by an organisation's transcendent purpose than by its transactional purpose.

As Paul J. Zak reiterates the relation of neurobiology and the story, storytelling is crucial to have engagement with the audience. Without story telling, data will be the only thing behind philosophies, and the process in which concepts were made become shadowed behind numbers. We see this in CSR movements made by companies that transpire to show that they are about the community as well as the business that they are in.

I agree with the authors opinion that we feed on the journey that the story teller creates rather than the financial options that something creates in the process. We can see this in not only the best of TED talks, but also from everyday classes as a college student as the episodes and story of the teacher are more important than the data that is given. The story not only creates a sense of personalisation to the topic, but also gives in insight to what the speaker felt and the emotional side to a topic.

3. A quick guide to correcting common writing errors

As the digital age and advancement with technology allows us to communicate with more people from around the world in many different mediums, writing, now more than ever, is important to be able to share ideas and voice your opinion on many ideas. One thing that is common in the mind of writers is the paranoia that comes to writing are the simple mistakes that we make from time to time. This article brings insight on correcting common writing errors that we persistently make if we do not try to change them.

As Mignon Fogarty suggests, common mistakes that arise commonly are stemmed from the way writing is used today. Because we use a lot of slang, even “a lot” tends to be shortened to “alot” which is given as an example in the article. Not only do we tend to shorten sentences, but we also tend to get mixed up with our past tense participles and the usage of “I” in much of the situations that we are involved in. To improve on our writing, rather than rely on the auto correcting that is with us ignominy of the mediums that we write in today, we must be able to use resources that are available to all of us such as the Google Ngram Search, which allows us to show how often a phrase is used in a book to check on the usage of an idiom. Dictionary .com and other online dictionary resources are also helpful as they show usage notes to survey a panel of experts to gather opinions about areas of language that are constantly changing. By consciously being able to correct errors with the usage of these resources, we will be able to conductively edit and rewrite our sentences to the correct format.

I agree that only do we not realise some of the mistakes that we make in everyday writing, but also that we need to make a conscious effort to change the way we write by using the resources that are available to us, but that we rather ignore.

B: Answer the following Reading Comprehension Questions

Reading Topic 1 What is English Academic Writing

1.What are the 6 steps involved in writing an academic essay?

1. Thesis Statement
2. Independent Inquiry
3. Citation
4. Plagiarism
5. Paraphrasing
6. Neatly design a coherent set of ideas

2.Give an example of a “linear narrative”.

Linear narrative is when the narrative or the flow of the story flows from the beginning to the end with no jumps in between. Non-linear narrative can have flashbacks and flash forwards such as memories in movies. A good example of a linear narrative would be Mother Goose stories, as the cause follows the effect, with no jump in between.

3.According to the article, what is missing in school education?

According to the article, the ability to design a coherent set of ideas, not only for english academic writing as a whole, but also to be able to use it forward in other settings, is needed as it creates opportunity for people to express their own opinions on a certain topic. This makes it so that even after people graduate, they will be able to use the skill set that they have learned in school to reinforce what they want to do in the future.

Reading Topic 2 Why does your brain love good story telling

1.What is oxytocin and when is it produced?

Oxytocin, elevates our sense of empathy for others and correlates with our happiness as it plays a role in the intimacy and social bonding with others.

2.In your opinion, why could the US Department of Defense be interested in the author's research.

I think that the main reason that the US Department of Defense would be interested in the authors research would be because that they want to be able to create better settings and environments so that people could be more intimate with one another. This not only could be set in a working environment, but also in emergency settings where cooperations of individuals can mean life or death. I also think that the department could use this in creating settings where the US would be talking with other countries about treaties and such to

3.Give an example of a company's transcendent and transactional purpose. (Please use a real company as an example)

Dropbox.

Transcendent purpose: To take control of all the data in your life, to keep safe of all the data that you own.

Transactional purpose: To give you premium options on top of some of the basic plans that comes with the registration.

Reading Topic 3 A quick guide to correcting common writing errors

1. Write a sentence to show the difference between the following

affect vs. effect

The inspirational poster affected me deeply; it really had a deep effect on me.

lay vs. lie

I lie on the bed.

I lay this book down.

farther vs. further

"My house is the farther of the two."

"She needs no further introduction."

2.What is a a hypercorrection

hypercorrection is a non-standard usage that results from the over using something that you perceived to be right in grammar.