**Hedging Language**

An important feature of academic writing is the concept of **cautious language**, often called “**hedging**” or “**vague language**.” In other words, it is necessary to make decisions about your stance on a particular subject, or the strength of the claims you are making.

**Introductory verbs:**e.g. seem, tend, look like, appear to be, think, believe, indicate, suggest

**Certain lexical verbs:**e.g. believe, assume, suggest

**Certain modal verbs:**e.g. would, may, might, could

**Adverbs of frequency:**e.g. often, sometimes, usually

**Modal adverbs:**e.g. probably, possibly, perhaps, conceivably,

**Modal adjectives:**e.g. probable, possible

**Modal nouns:**e.g. assumption, possibility, probability

**That clauses**e.g. It could be the case that. e.g. It might be suggested that. e.g. It could be argued that

**To-clause + adjective:**e.g. It may be possible to obtain. e.g. It is important to develop. e.g. It is useful to study.

**Useful introductory clauses:**

It is thought that …

It is believed that …

It has been reported that …

It is a widely held view that …

It is generally acknowledged that …

It has commonly been found that …

Many scholars hold the view that …

Recent research has suggested that …

The study reports that …

The report suggests that ….

The research indicates that …