

Styles of research paper

What are the language features?

- 1. Formal**
- 2. Objective**
- 3. Cautious**
- 4. Referencing**
- 5. Logical**

Formal

1. Use formal words

eat → consume good → beneficial bad → harmful

keep → remain/maintain try → attempt/endeavor

2. Use one-word verbs instead of phrasal verbs

look into → investigate get rid of → eliminate

cut down → reduce go up → increase find out → discover

Academic Word List (AWL)

Formal

3. Avoid contractions, colloquialisms or slang

isn't → is not they've → they have

✗ okay or pretty good (Colloquialisms)

✗ mess up (slang)

4. Avoid the use of rhetorical questions

5. Use long and complex sentences (conjunction, relative pronoun)

Objective

1. Use **the passive voice**

Personal: I chose this method because ...

Impersonal: This method is chosen because ...

It can be concluded that...,

It has been claimed that...

2. Avoid using 1st, 2nd person pronouns

The author of this paper, this paper, this article or this thesis

3. Avoid words that have emotional or personal feeling

Objective

4. Use of nominalization

1) Use nouns to replace verbs

This paper analyzes the problem and solve it.

✓ This paper gives an analysis of the problem and offers a solution.

You can rectify this fault if you insert a slash.

✓ Rectification of this fault is achieved by insertion of a slash.

2) Use nouns to replace adj.

It is doubtful how accurate these results are.

✓ The accuracy of these results is doubtful.

Objective

5) Use nouns to replace sentences

If the experiment is done by this method, there will be some loss of the equipment.

✓ The doing of the experiment by this method will entail some loss of the equipment.

Cautious

Use “hedging” expressions or vague language

will → may, might, certain → probable/likely/possible
always → often, every, all → many/much/ a majority of
to some extent , seem to, tend to,
It has been indicated /suggested that
It is widely believed that

Use a cautious tone in academic writing, because very often there is no absolutely right answer or perfect solution to the issues discussed.

Cautious

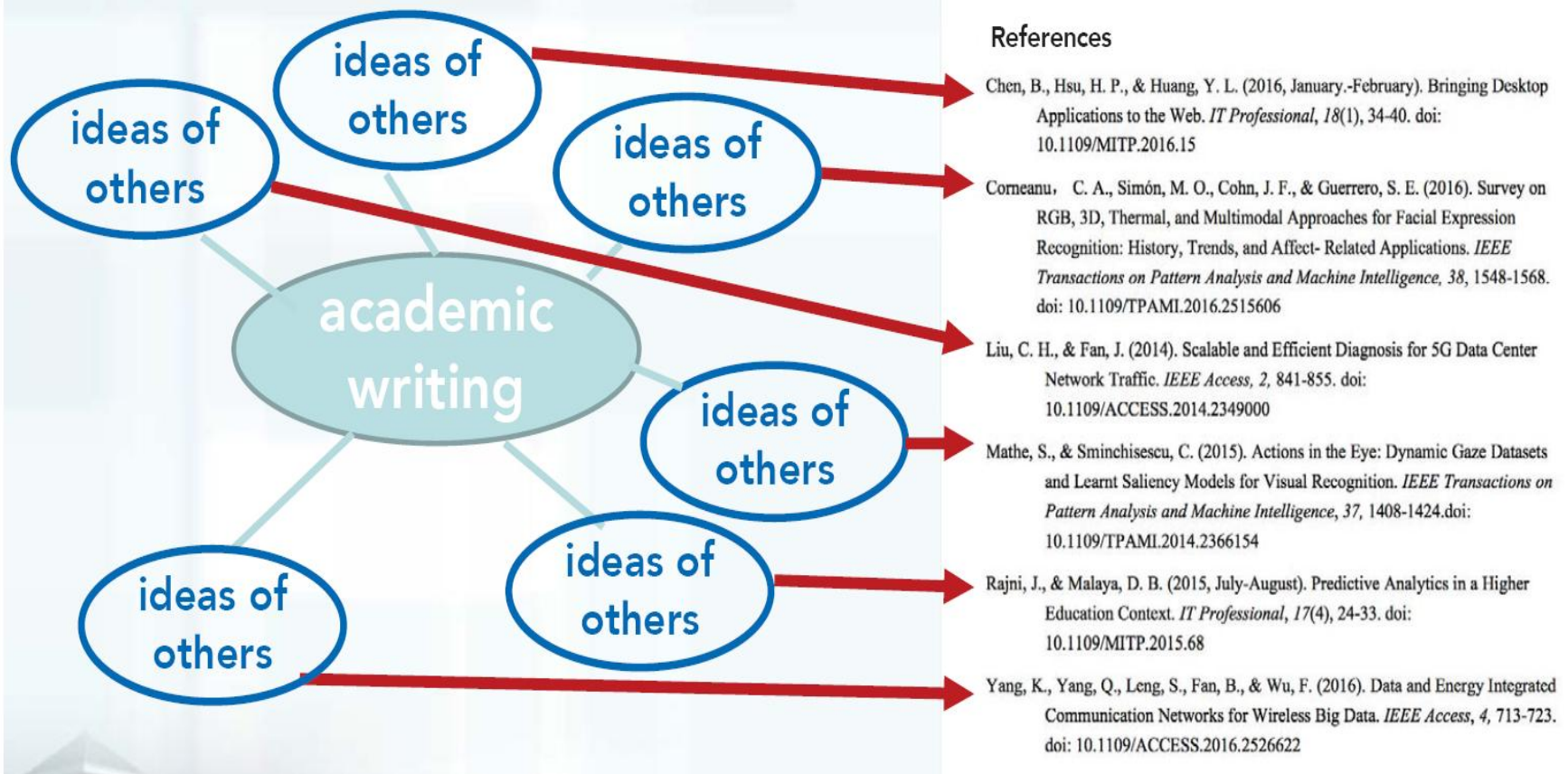
E.g:

1. Recent research **proves** that **all** people prefer emails to traditional letter-writing as a mode of communication.
✓ Recent research *suggests* that *a majority of* people prefer emails to traditional letter-writing as a mode of communication
2. International students are **always** quiet in tutorials.
✓ **Many** international students **tend to** be among the quieter participants in tutorials.

4. Avoid plagiarism

In-text referencing/ End –text referencing

4. Academic writing uses more referencing



Logical

1. Use pronouns

Avoid repetition of the same words. If certain word must be repeated, **reference words, synonyms or different forms** of the word.

2. Use logical connectors

Use transitional expressions between sentences or paragraphs.

3. Being consistent in the connotation and denotation of the concept

Structure of a research paper

While theses, dissertations or Journal articles may vary from each other, the following layout is recommended:

Theses or dissertations

- **Title page**
- **Abstract and key words (Chinese and English)**
- **Table of contents**
- **Introduction**
- **Literature Review (arts)**
- **Design(Material and Methodology)**
- **Results and Discussion**
- **Conclusion**
- **Acknowledgements**
- **References**
- **Appendices**

Journal Articles

- **Title**
- **Authors**
- **Address**
- **Abstract**
- **Key words**
- **Introduction**
- **Design(Material and Methodology)**
- **Results**
- **Discussion**
- **Conclusion**
- **Acknowledgement**
- **References**
- **Appendices**

Journal Articles

