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An Introduction to Academic Writing

**Week 2**

**Examples of Academic Writing**

1. **Literary analysis**

Need to careful close reading of one or multiple texts to examines, evaluates, and makes an argument.

1. **Research paper**

Involves synthesizing this external information with your own ideas.

1. **Dissertation**

Written in all disciplines and may be evaluative, analytical, or critical in nature.

**Characteristics of Academic Writing**

1. **Clear and limited focus.**

Every paragraph and sentence of the paper connects back to that primary focus.

1. **Logical structure.**

Each sentence and paragraphs logically connect to the next in order to present a clear argument.

1. **Evidence-based arguments.**

Use evidence from scholarly sources, results of a study or experiment or quotations from a primary text to make the argument more credibility.

1. **Impersonal tone.**

Avoids emotional, inflammatory, or otherwise biased language.

**The Importance of Thesis Statements**

Respond clearly and concisely in a single sentence. That single sentence is your thesis statement. Frequently referring back to that thesis statement will prevent you from straying off-topic during the drafting phase. The thesis statement should be revised to reflect changes in the content or direction of the paper. Its ultimate goal, after all, is to capture the main ideas of your paper with clarity and specificity.

**Common Mistakes to Avoid**

1. **Wordiness.**

Convey complex ideas in a clear, [concise](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html) manner. If you find yourself writing a sentence over 25 words long, try to divide it into two or three separate sentences for improved readability.

1. **A vague or missing thesis statement.**
2. **Informal language.**
3. **Description without analysis.**
4. **Not citing sources.**