



TISHK International University

FASE | Accounting, Banking & Finance & IRD Departments
ACC 153/IRD 155 - Academic Research and Writing

Chapter 1:

Introduction:

Academic Writing: Meaning & Features

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Instructor:

Dr. Basiru Musa

Email: basiru.musa@tiu.edu.iq

Learning Objectives

- Define Academic Writing and explain its features.
- Cultivate intellectual curiosity.
- Explore similarities and differences.
- Understand the importance of arguing with logic and evidence.
- Understand why arguments must be challenged



What is Academic Research and Writing?

- Academic writing is a formal style of writing that is used in universities and scholarly publications.
- Its objective is to inform rather than entertain, and it is written in the standard written form of the language.
- Academic writing emerges (builds) from careful study of topics and sources. Academic writing requires significant reading, evaluating, and thinking. Writing for college, university and academic careers requires more work than simply putting pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard, as is more common today).

What does Academic Research and writing serve to fulfill?

- Academic Research and writing serves to fulfill basic writing course requirements, of course, but is far more robust in meeting the critical thinking and curiosity challenges of other disciplines and courses. Sociologists, artists, economists, and anthropologists all investigate topics with a critical lens in order to:
 - **Explore similarities and differences**
 - **Argue with logic and evidence**
 - **Challenge arguments**
 - **Communicate new ideas or new perspectives on existing ideas**

Features of Academic Writing

- Academic writing in English is linear, which means it has one central point or theme with every part contributing to the main line of argument, without digressions or repetitions.
- Its objective is to inform rather than entertain. As well as this it is in the standard written form of the language.
- There are ten (10) main features of academic writing that are often discussed. Academic writing is to some extent: complex, formal, objective, explicit, hedged, and responsible. It uses language precisely and accurately.
- It is also well organized and planned.

Ten (10) Features of Academic Writing

1. Planning

2.
Organization

3. Complexity

4. Formality

5. Precision

6. Objectivity

7. Explicitness

8. Accuracy

9. Hedging

10.
Responsibility



Cont.

- **Planning:**

Academic writing is well planned. It usually takes place after research and evaluation, according to a specific purpose and plan.

- **Organization:**

Academic writing is well organized. It flows easily from one section to the next in a logical fashion. A good place to start is the genre of your text. Once you have decided on the genre, the structure is easily determined

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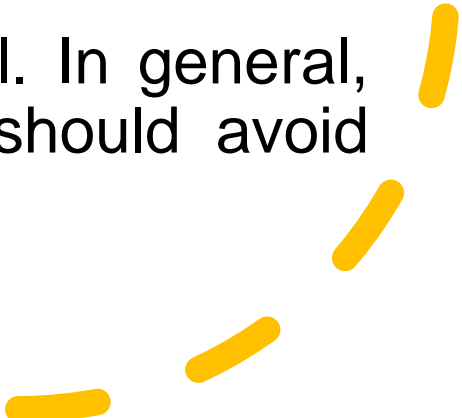
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- **Complexity:**

Written language is relatively more complex than spoken language. Written language has longer words, it is lexically denser, and it has a more varied vocabulary. It uses more noun-based phrases than verb-based phrases. Written texts are shorter, and the language has more grammatical complexity, including more subordinate clauses and more passives.

- **Formality:**

Academic writing is relatively formal. In general, this means that in an essay you should avoid colloquial words and expressions.

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- **Precision:**

In academic writing, facts and figures are given precisely

- **Objectivity:**

Written language is in general objective rather than personal. It, therefore, has fewer words that refer to the writer or the reader. This means that the main emphasis should be on the information that you want to give and the arguments you want to make, rather than you. For that reason, academic writing tends to use nouns (and adjectives), rather than verbs (and adverbs).



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- **Explicitness:**

Academic writing is explicit about the relationships in the text. Furthermore, it is the responsibility of the writer in English to make it clear to the reader how the various parts of the text are related. These connections can be made explicit or clear using different signalling words.

- **Accuracy:**

Academic writing uses vocabulary accurately. Most subjects have words with narrow specific meanings. Linguistics distinguishes clearly between "phonetics" and "phonemics," general English does not.



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- **Hedging:**

In any kind of academic writing you do, it is necessary to make decisions about your stance on a particular subject, or the strength of the claims you are making. Different subjects prefer to do this in different ways.

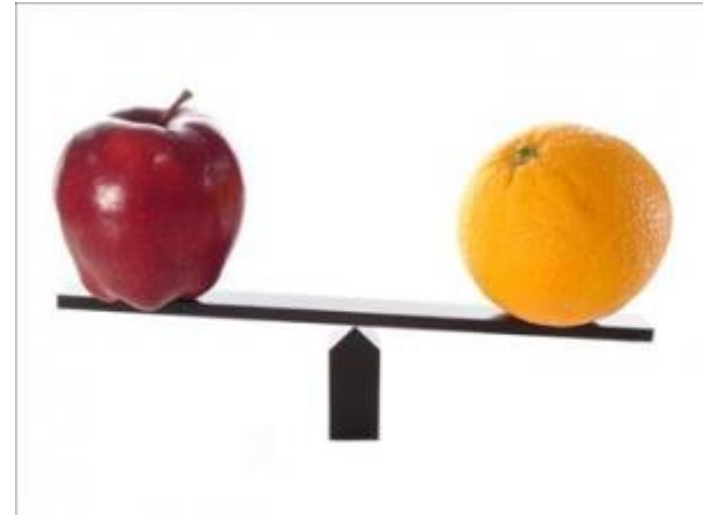
A technique common in certain kinds of academic writing is known by linguists as a 'hedge.'

- **Responsibility:**

In academic writing you must be responsible for and must be able to provide evidence and justification for, any claims you make. You are also responsible for demonstrating an understanding of any source texts you use.

Explore similarities and differences.

- Academic thinking often involves close study of examples. Any time you gather multiple examples of a topic and study them, you'll have an occasion to make comparisons and contrasts.
- If you were writing a paper about fruit, you would quickly conclude that **fruits take no single form.**
- **How would you treat the differences and similarities you found? What conclusions would you draw?**
- In college-level or university work, you will frequently observe similarities and differences, and you will need to account for them.



Arguing With Logic & Evidence

- In social settings, few people want to be known for arguing all the time. In academic settings, people are expected to argue: to use **logic** and **evidence** both to present their work and review the work of others.
- In a university setting, our knowledge of the world is built through **argument**: the ability to examine **evidence**, reach a **conclusion**, and convince others that our conclusions are correct or reasonable. Argument will become one of the core skills you'll learn at university.
- Arguing the point would require you to state that gold, as a metal dug from the earth, is no more valuable than the feathers of a goose or chicken. Is it possible? Say you're trapped in an Arctic outpost. Winter is approaching and what you need, urgently, is insulation to keep you from freezing to death. In this situation, wouldn't three pounds of feathers (to make a down blanket) be of far more value to you than three pounds of gold?





Challenging Argument

why arguments must be challenged.

- If arguing is essential in academic settings, so is pushing back against arguments when their logic or evidence is flawed. Consider that the larger intellectual goal in the academy is to build knowledge, **and no one is well served when faulty arguments are accepted as true.**
- It goes without saying that others will challenge you when they're not convinced of the soundness of your arguments. So pushing back, respectfully and logically, is essential to your success both in college and beyond.



Thank You!