Basics of Academic Writing
Academic Writing

♣ Abstract

♣ Introduction

♣ Literature review

♣ Method

♣ Results

♣ Conclusions

♣ References
What is Academic Writing?

1. Definition
   Academic writing is the kind of writing that you do in college and university.

2. Characterization
   It is different from other kinds of writing such as personal, literary, journalistic, business, etc., in terms of audience, tone, and purpose.
2.1 **Audience**
Consider the people who will read or hear what you write. Who are they?

2.2 **Tone**
Consider the style of writing, such as choice of words, grammatical structure, the length of your sentences, etc. Academic writing has a highly formal and impersonal tone. How do you achieve such a tone?
Formal Language

- Avoid using the following informal usage:

  Exclamations
  Sentence fragments
  Modal contractions
  Initial “and”
  Initial “but”
Characteristics of Academic Writing

2.3 *Purpose*

Purpose of academic writing is often to explain, to persuade, or to convince your audience of the correctness of your claim on a certain issue or problem.
Processes of Writing

1. Prewriting
2. Planning
3. Searching References
4. Handling References
5. Data Collection and Analysis
6. Writing and Revising Drafts
1 Prewriting

1.1 Choosing and narrowing a topic

1.2 Brainstorming:

   listing

   free-writing

   clustering
Choosing a Topic

- Practicality
  - Course requirement
    - “Comparative Cultures Through Mass Media”
  - Time limitation

- Interest
  - Motivation
  - Future research
Narrowing the Topic

• Narrowing the Scope of Focus
  • Subject Domain
  • Region, Location
  • Time Period
• Other Social Attributes
  • E.g., Gender, Age, Social Background, Education, etc.
2 Planning

2.1 Writing a Thesis Statement
- Report Research Paper
- Argumentative Research Paper

2.2 Simple Outlining
3 Searching References

3.1 Library

3.2 Computer

3.3 Other sources
4 Handling References

4.1 Quotations
   - Direct Quotations
   - Indirect Quotations

4.2 Summaries

4.3 Paraphrases

4.4 Avoiding Plagiarism
5 Data Collection and Analysis

5.1 Methods of Data Collection

- Literature Review
- Experiments
- Fieldwork, etc.

5.2 Analysis and Discussion
6.1 Writing the First Draft

6.2 Revising Content and Organization

6.3 Blending Reference Materials

6.4 Proofreading the Second Draft for Grammar and Mechanics

6.5 Writing the Final Manuscript