



# Academic Writing for Students

## Writing Academic Essays

Academic essays present a structured argument in response to a specific question or prompt. Essays require critical thinking, logical organisation, and evidence-based reasoning. Academic essays require formal language, third-person perspective, and careful referencing.

### **Purpose**

To develop and defend a central argument (thesis).

### **Structure**

- Introduction
- Body paragraphs
- Conclusion

### **Example Structure**

Introduction

- Background information
- Thesis statement

Body Paragraph (TEEL Model)

- Topic Sentence
- Evidence
- Explanation
- Linking Sentence

Conclusion

### **Example (Argumentative Essay):**

This essay argues that renewable energy investment is essential for long-term economic stability. Firstly, renewable energy reduces dependency on finite fossil fuels. According to the International Energy Agency (2022), countries investing in renewables demonstrate increased energy security. This suggests that economic resilience is closely linked to sustainable energy policies.

## Writing Introductions

The introduction should clearly answer the essay question and outline the direction of the argument

An effective introduction contains **three components**:

- Background information
- Context or narrowing of topic
- Thesis statement

### Example Structure:

- Broad statement
- More specific context
- Clear thesis

### Example:

Climate change has become one of the most pressing global challenges of the twenty-first century. Governments worldwide are implementing various strategies to mitigate environmental damage. This essay argues that renewable energy investment is the most effective long-term solution to climate change.

## Writing Body Paragraphs

### **T – Topic Sentence**

Introduces the main idea of the paragraph.

### **E – Evidence**

Provides research, data, or examples.

### **E – Explanation**

Analyses how the evidence supports the argument.

### **L – Link**

Connects back to the thesis or transitions to the next idea.

### **Example Paragraph (TEEL):**

Renewable energy enhances national energy security. According to the International Energy Agency (2022), countries investing in solar and wind infrastructure reduce their reliance on imported fossil fuels. This evidence demonstrates that renewable development strengthens economic independence and reduces geopolitical vulnerability. Therefore, renewable investment contributes significantly to long-term national stability.

## Writing Conclusions

**A conclusion should:**

- Restate the thesis (in different words)
- Summarize main arguments
- Provide a final insight

**Example:**

Thus, renewable energy investment provides both environmental and economic advantages. By reducing fossil fuel dependency and encouraging innovation, it offers a sustainable pathway toward global stability.

**Words to use in a conclusion**

Instead of This	Use This
In the end	Ultimately
So	Therefore / Consequently
Because of this	For this reason
This shows	This demonstrates / This indicates
This proves	This suggests
I believe	The evidence suggests that

# Academic Vocabulary and Formal Language

Academic writing requires precision, clarity, and formality.

## Replacing Informal Language

<b>Informal</b>	<b>Academic Alternative</b>
A lot of	Numerous/ Substantial
Big	Significant/ Considerable
Get	Obtain/ Acquire
Show	Demonstrate/ illustrate
Say	Argue/ Assert
Good	Beneficial/ Advantageous
Bad	Detrimental/ Adverse
So	Therefore/ Consequently
But	However/ Nevertheless

## Avoiding Personal Language

**Instead of:** I think education is important.

**Write:** Education is widely considered essential for economic development.

**Instead of:** In my opinion

**Write:** It can be argued that

## Using Academic Tone

Academic writing avoids absolute claims.

### Examples of academic tone:

- may
- might
- appears to
- suggests
- indicates
- potentially

### Written Example:

Social media may contribute to reduced attention spans among adolescents.

# Writing Reports

Reports present factual information systematically and objectively. Reports prioritize clarity, objectivity, and structured headings.

## Report Structure

- Title
- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- Methodology
- Findings
- Discussion
- Recommendations

## TEEL in Report Writing (Discussion Section)

Flexible work arrangements increase productivity. Internal data indicate a 15% improvement in task completion rates following policy implementation. This improvement suggests that flexible scheduling enhances employee efficiency and time management. Consequently, expanding remote work policies may benefit overall organizational performance.

# Writing Research Papers

Research papers present original findings. Precision and objectivity are essential when writing a research paper.

## Research Introduction Structure

- Background
- Problem statement
- Aim
- Research question

### Example:

Despite widespread adoption of digital learning tools, their long-term cognitive effects remain uncertain. This study aims to investigate the relationship between screen time and academic performance among university students.

## Methodology Language

- The study employed a quantitative design.
- Data were collected via structured surveys.
- Statistical analysis was conducted using SPSS software.

## Writing Reviews

An academic review is a formal piece of writing that evaluates a book, journal article, research paper, or theory. An academic review is not only a summary. It must include analysis and evaluation.

### In a review, you:

- Summarize the main ideas
- Evaluate strengths and weaknesses
- Give a balanced judgment
- Support your evaluation with evidence

### Use reporting verbs:

- argues
- states
- suggests
- explains
- demonstrates

1. Introduction (Short Paragraph)

2. Summary (Short Paragraph)

3. Evaluation (1–2 Paragraphs Using TEEL)

4. Conclusion (Short Paragraph)

- Restate your overall opinion
- Summarise your evaluation

### Structure of an Academic Review

## Citations

Proper citation ensures academic integrity.

### Common Styles

- APA
- Harvard
- MLA
- Chicago

### APA In-Text Citation

Climate change presents significant economic risks (Jones, 2022).

### Direct quote:

According to Jones (2022), “climate change poses unprecedented risks” (p. 45).

### APA Reference Example

Jones, T. (2022). Climate economics. Oxford University Press.

Paraphrased ideas must also be cited.