## What is academic writing style?

**Academic writing requires writing in a more formal style than the language you use in conversation. You are expected to use this style in university but using this style of language in exam answers and essays may gain you extra marks.**

**For academic writing:**

• **Be analytical.**

**• Don’t just write down everything you know about the subject to which the question refers.**

**• Your style should reflect that you have read around the subject and**

**thought critically about it.**

**• Show that you understand and can evaluate different angles to an**

**argument.**

**• Refer to other critics as well as your primary text. Example: Smith argues**

**A, and Brown argues B, but it is likely that opinion C is more accurate. Specifically, when you are quoting from a text think carefully about the verb you use to introduce their ideas.**

**Instead of: Consider using:**

**Thinks Considers or believes**

**Asks Questions**

**Says States or asserts**

**Sees Observes**

## Avoid using conversational language.

**Instead of: Consider using:**

**Really Very**

**A bit Rather**

**A lot A great deal**

**Maybe Perhaps**

## Avoid using contracted words.

**Instead of: Consider using:**

**Can’t Cannot**

**Doesn’t Does not**

**It’s It is**

**Isn’t Is not**

## Avoid starting sentences with these words:

**Again**

**Although**

**Because**

**But**

**And**

**It is not incorrect to begin a sentence with these words however it is often difficult to control the grammar of the rest of the sentence if you do, and it may result in a very long sentence.**

## Write clearly and concisely with structure

* **One argument per paragraph**
* **One idea per sentence**

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