

Academic Writing Requires Attention to the Details

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| Thesis Driven |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starts with an idea or a position • Involves providing, demonstrating, and supporting the questions related to the idea or position |
| Higher-Order Thinking |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present complex concepts using a well-organized presentation of the issues or ideas, analysis or synthesis and recommendations • Contributes to a discipline's ongoing discussions |
| Evidence-Based Arguments |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opinions are based on understanding of the current debates in the academy, external and internal to a discipline • Support evidence from scholarly sources • Persuade your reader regarding the validity of your argument in a clear, documented, and structured writing |
| Structure & Connections |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure is more formal and provides logical progression from thought to thought • Introductions provide roadmap for readers • Parts of the document are connected to create a cohesive whole; use of narrative and transitions facilitate connections |
| Conventions |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic writing utilizes: citation of ideas as well as direct quotes, references, headings and subheadings, identifying abbreviations, no contractions, no informal language or slang, avoiding the personal tone and contractions |
| Diction |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use specific terms, considering the discipline's use of a term • Some words may have the same definition (denotation) but different meanings (connotation) depending on the discipline. • Be sure to specify the meaning as examined or used in your writing of a term that could be interpreted differently |
| Language |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs to be concise, formal, and specific • Avoid vague phrases and words |
| Punctuation |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Along with formal language, the punctuation needs to reflect a more formal presentation. • No exclamation points and limited use of dashes |
| Tone |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall form of expression conveys an appropriate narrative • Arguments are strongly stated and use neutral language |

Adapted from: Robert V. Labaree, (2018) *Organizing Your Social Sciences Research Paper* (LibGuide). Accessed June 30, 2018, <http://libguides.usc.edu/writingguide/purpose>