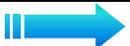


**Academic Writing Requires Attention to the Details**

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

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