

ACADEMIC WRITING

USE ACTIVE VOICE

Passive voice obscures subjects and actions. Use active tense to provide specificity and stronger arguments.

AVOID CONTRACTIONS

Spell out word combinations:
don't → do not

CITE YOUR SOURCES

Be sure to cite all of the information that is used in the construction of the paper / assignment. Tell readers where you found your information!

USE OBJECTIVE TONE

Emphasize an objective perspective when writing for academic audiences, save personal pronouns for informal writing.

HINTS & TIPS

Take your academic writing up a notch or two. Some writing assignments do not require a high-level of academic writing, be sure to understand your assignment requirements.

Change up the first words of sentences and consider complex sentences as an option.

VARY SENTENCE STRUCTURE

Academic writing avoids slang and colloquialisms and other phrases that are too informal.

AVOID SLANG & FILLER PHRASES

Use a thesaurus to provide variety and avoid overuse of our go-to words. Avoid using "this," "these," or "those" to start sentences.

DIVERSIFY WORD CHOICE

Proofreading catches issues that spellcheck misses. Reading out loud is an effective way to proofread.

PROOFREAD