

Identifying Academic Style

Some Stylistic Features of Academic Writing:

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Systematic introduction and development of topic. 2. Writer's approach is analytical, objective and intellectual. 3. Formal manner of writing. 4. Impersonal tone. 5. Referring to literature/research gives objectivity and credibility to academic writing. 6. More complex sentences and specialised vocabulary. 7. Accurate spelling and grammar. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Not impressionistic.</i> • <i>Strong opinions may be expressed but not subjectively or emotionally.</i> • <i>Not conversational or colloquial.</i> • <i>Is the use of 'I', 'We' and 'You' acceptable?</i> • <i>How do I choose between the use of active voice and passive voice?</i> • <i>Evidence from books and research rather than personal experience or what you think.</i> • <i>Multiple sources of evidence.</i> • <i>Acknowledge ideas from other writers, whether quoted, paraphrased or summarised.</i> • <i>Proper in-text citation and referencing.</i> • <i>The penalty for plagiarism is high.</i> • <i>Complex sentence structures are often used but do not put too many ideas in one long sentence.</i> • <i>Do not overuse specialised vocabulary; readers will be confused.</i> • <i>Do not use slang.</i> • <i>Avoid contractions.</i> • <i>When acronyms are used, spell the term out the first time and put it in parentheses. After that, the acronym can be used in the rest of the paper.</i>
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The above are some general guidelines. Read widely in your own discipline to determine the stylistic features most suitable for your writing/assignments. When you are in doubt, always check with your lecturers/tutors.



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