

1 Power up your studies-master academic basics

Hi everyone!

Let's talk about powering up your academic game. If you've played games, you know it takes time to get good at them - learning the mechanics, practicing, and gradually improving. At Esports this works pretty much the same way, and I'm here to help you get comfortable with the academic basics.

Starting your academic journey is a big change from any other kind of study you might have done before - everything feels more intense, and the expectations are different. When lecturers start talking about "academic writing" and "peer-reviewed sources," it can feel pretty overwhelming. But don't worry - we're going to break this down into stuff that actually makes sense.

It's not just about remembering facts anymore - you need to think about them differently. Like when you're playing games and working out different strategies, you need to understand not just what works, but why it works, and how it could be better. Here are the essential skills you'll need:

Academic reading is different from what you've done before. You don't need to read every word of every article - that would be impossible anyway. Learn to spot the important bits: start with the introduction and conclusion, then decide if you need the details in between.

Taking notes is another challenge. Your old methods from school might not work as well here. Whether you're in lectures or reading course materials, you need to record information in a way that makes sense when you're revising later. It's about finding your own way to track the important stuff.

Understanding assignment briefs is crucial. It's frustrating to lose marks just because you missed part of the question. Always check what you're actually being asked to do, how many words you need, and when it's due.

Your lecturers and tutors are actually there to help. I know it can feel intimidating, but if you're stuck, just ask - even if it's just to check you're on the right track.

Here's a useful tip - start building good habits now. Find out where you study best (the library might work better than your room), when you're most alert (late-night energy drink sessions aren't great long-term), and how to balance gaming with your academic work. These skills will help you through your whole degree. They're the foundation everything else builds on.