

## 6 Game changer-steps to better academic writing

Hi everyone,

Today we're looking at academic writing. It might seem like a completely different world from what you're used to, but just like learning a new game, once you understand the basics, you can start levelling up your skills.

Good academic writing isn't just about getting your ideas down - it's about presenting them in a clear way. But don't worry, we'll break this down into manageable steps.

Let's look at what makes academic writing different:

First up - structure. Every piece of academic writing needs a clear introduction, main body, and conclusion. Think of it as your roadmap. Your introduction tells the reader what to expect, your main body delivers on that promise, and your conclusion brings it all together.

Academic language is probably different from what you've used before. You don't need to use fancy words to sound clever - that usually backfires. Instead, aim for clear, precise language. Cut out informal phrases and focus on explaining your ideas properly.

Here's something really important - evidence. In academic writing, you can't just say what you think. You need to back up your points with evidence from reliable sources. This is where your research comes in - use it to support your arguments.

Planning makes a massive difference. Before you start writing, know what you want to say. Jot down your main points. Check you've got evidence to support them. This saves you from that painful moment when you're halfway through and realise your argument doesn't work.

One trick that really helps - read your work out loud. You'll spot weird sentences, repetition, and places where your argument doesn't flow. If you stumble while reading it, your reader will probably struggle too.

Don't try to sound like a textbook. Yes, you need to be formal, but you're still explaining your ideas. Keep your sentences clear. One point per paragraph. Link your ideas together so your reader can follow your thinking.

Getting feedback is crucial. Use your tutors' comments to improve. If they say your writing is too informal or your arguments need more evidence, they're giving you the key to better marks.

Remember - everyone starts somewhere. Your first few assignments might need work, but each time you write, you're building those skills.