

Academic Writing at Finnish Universities

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Centre for Language and Communication Studies (Kievi)

Orientation | Fall 2026



UNIVERSITY
OF TURKU

Where are you from?



What will I show you during this lecture?

Intro to academic writing

Academic writing and culture

Plagiarism and Turnitin

Using AI tools

What is academic English?

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee
Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj
Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo
Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt
Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy
Zz . , ! ? « » ♥ ♥ ♥
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

a b c d e f g h i j k
l m n o p q r s t
u v w x y z , . ? " ' !
A B C D E F G H I
J K L M N O P Q R
S T U V W X Y Z
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

There are no native speakers of
Academic English

What is academic writing?

Academic writing is:

complex & formal

objective

supported

precise & accurate

hedged

The features of academic language (Gillett, 2011)

Academic English
should be ...

complex & formal

There are loads of scientists
who bang on about global
warming.

Scientists around the world
have voiced their concerns
about global warming.

The features of academic language (Gillett, 2011)

Academic English
should be ...

complex & formal

I think global warming is
happening.

Significant evidence suggests
global warming is occurring.

The features of academic language (Gillett, 2011)

Academic English
should be ...

complex & formal

objective

Human activity has a negative
impact on the environment.

Human activity has a negative
impact on the environment
(Berlund, 2003; Goudie, 2018).

The features of academic language (Gillett, 2011)

Academic English
should be ...

complex & formal

objective

supported

It's hotter now than it used to be.

According to Statista (2019), the average temperature in the UK in July has risen by 3°C since 2015.

The features of academic language (Gillett, 2011)

Academic English
should be ...

complex & formal

objective

supported

precise & accurate

People are absolutely
responsible for climate
change.

Ample evidence suggests that
people are responsible for
climate change (Goudie, 2018).

Ask yourself:

**What is academic in
your field or your**

**Use of 1st-
person
pronouns
(I/we)?**

**Citation style
(MLA, Harvard,
etc.)?**

**Use of outside
sources?**

Find an example of good
academic writing in your
field, and ask:

What makes it good?

Academic Writing and Culture

Does culture have an impact on academic writing?



Mauranen, A. (1992). Reference in Academic Rhetoric: A Contrastive Study of Finnish and English Writing.

Are Finnish and English academic texts different?

Finnish	English
General Rhetorical Structure	
Information Placement	
Text and Meta-text	

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implicit	explicit
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implicit	explicit
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starts from a distance and makes its way to the main point toward the end	starts with important points and repeats them throughout
Text and Meta-text	

Are Finnish and English academic texts different?

Finnish	English
General Rhetorical Structure	
implicit	explicit
Information Placement	
starts from a distance and makes its way to the main point toward the end	starts with important points and repeats them throughout
Text and Meta-text	
less text about text	more text about text

(a non-American perspective)

“German texts, by virtue of their digressiveness, are versatile and multi-faceted, whereas [English] writing is repetitive and colourless. Equally, German text structure might be likened metaphorically to that of a ‘staircase’ or ‘spiral’ leading the writer through even more complex stages of reasoning to the conclusion. Viewed from this perspective, English academic style will appear like a walk over a perfectly flat country with no attempt to venture into mountainous territory.”

Siepmann, Dirk. “Academic Writing and Culture: An Overview of Differences Between English, French, and German.” *Meta*, vol. 51, No. 1, 2006, pp. 131-150.
www.erudit.org/revue/meta/2006/v51/n1/012998ar.pdf.

Plagiarism

based on slides from Maarit Koponen

“In some fields, young scholars may imitate the often out-dated style of their professors or of journal articles published many years ago. Nowadays, style is evolving, because of widening democracy and internationalization, and also increased printing costs.”

Carolyn Brimley Norris (2016). *Academic Writing in English*.
Language Services, University of Helsinki. p. 3

“In some fields, young scholars may imitate the often out-dated style of their professors or of journal articles published many years ago. Nowadays, style is evolving, because of widening democracy and internationalization, and also increased printing costs.” (Norris 2016, p. 3)



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Clear plagiarism

No quotation marks
to indicate direct
quote

In some fields, young scholars may imitate the often out-dated style of their professors or of journal articles published many years ago. Nowadays, style is evolving, because of widening democracy and internationalization, and also increased printing costs.

Copied word-for-word,
source not indicated



~~In some fields,~~ Young writers sometimes imitate the often old-fashioned style of their professors or of ~~journal~~ articles published many years ago. Nowadays, style is changing, because of widening democracy and internationalization, and also increasing printing costs.



Still plagiarism

No quotation marks to indicate borrowed parts

~~In some fields, Young writers sometimes imitate the often old-fashioned style of their professors or of journal articles published many years ago. Nowadays, style is changing, because of widening democracy and internationalization, and also increasing printing costs.~~

Copied almost word-for-word, source not indicated



According to Norris (2016), young writers sometimes imitate the often old-fashioned style of their professors or of articles published many years ago. Nowadays, style is changing, because of widening democracy and internationalization, and also increasing printing costs.



Deceptive paraphrase

Source indicated

According to Norris (2016), young writers sometimes imitate the often old-fashioned style of their professors or of articles published many years ago. Nowadays, style is changing, because of widening democracy and internationalization, and also increasing printing costs.

Copied almost word-for-word, lack of quotation marks falsely presents Norris' wording as the author's own.



In her recent guide on academic writing, Norris (2016) advises against imitating the style of older journal articles, for example, because academic style is changing. She argues the changes are caused by "widening democracy and internationalization" as well as printing costs /



Paraphrase with citations

In her recent guide on academic writing, Norris (2016) advises against imitating the style of older journal articles, for example, because academic style is changing. She argues the changes are caused by "widening democracy and internationalization" as well as printing costs (p. 2).

Passage has been paraphrased and source is provided; direct quotes used when needed.



How do we detect
plagiarism at UTU?

Turnitin (via Moodle)

Compares your
work to others

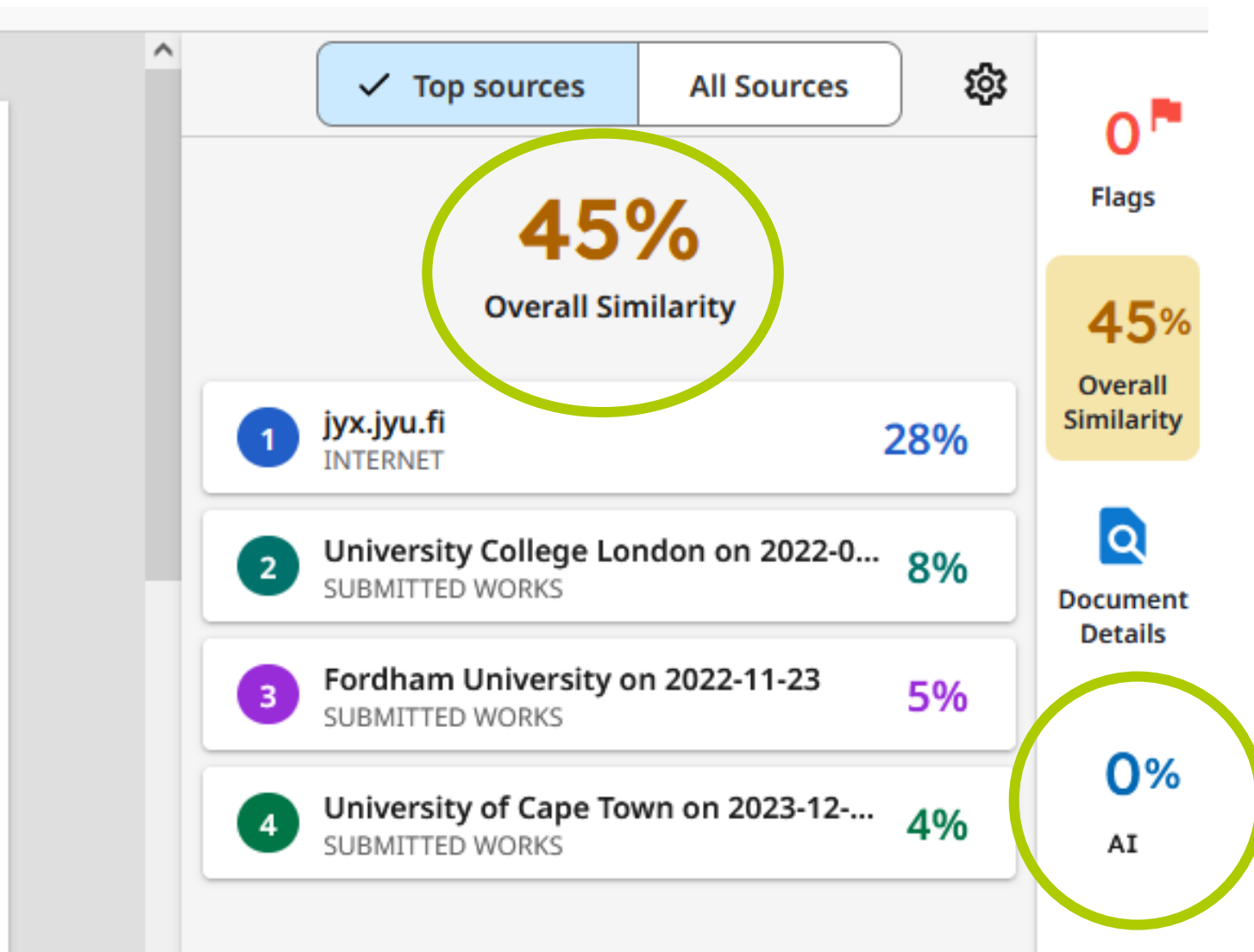
Provides a report on
the similarity + AI use

(Allows you to rewrite your
work to fix problems)*

*depends on how your instructor configures the settings

tiainen of ³What is important in history teaching? Student
shed in the *History Education Research Journal* research
teaching and the nature of history as a school subject. The
research because student teachers' ¹perceptions of school
ching, which ultimately affects their students' learning.

s for history teaching in Finnish primary school, which are ¹
d to construct a foundation for understanding history. The
tent knowledge and developing a deeper understanding of
uses on historical thinking and reasoning skills. The authors
nd 79 female Finnish student-teachers from various socio-
is of short answers ²to the question "what is important in
wrote at the beginning of their first history study module



How can I use AI tools responsibly?

At UTU, different
courses/instructors allow use
of AI tools in different ways.

Let's look at example guidelines from a writing course.

With help from Anna Krizsán, Jeremy Palmer, and Marise Lehto

Warning on plagiarism: Remember that plagiarism is a serious offense at our university!

The initial draft(s) of all your writing must be your own. You must save this draft. Turn off Grammarly, Copilot and similar (free and paid) when writing your first draft. Non-AI editing tools in MS Word are okay.

After writing your first draft, AI-enabled tools & plug-ins are allowed only for the purpose of editing and proofreading your draft (e.g., fixing grammar, spelling and punctuation; improving word choice and sentence structure; editing for consistency in style and tone).

Please note that upon request from the course instructor, you must be able to present further evidence of how you used AI tools in your writing process, e.g., chat history (with dates) or your original/initial draft. Therefore, you must carefully document your writing process. At the very least:

- save a separate copy of your original/initial draft (before using any AI tools), and
- keep records of the prompts used and the outputs produced by AI, with the dates clearly visible (e.g., chat history, screenshots, colour-coding, etc.).

Failure to disclose the use of AI-enabled tools will be interpreted as a fraud attempt.



AI-enabled tools have been used in this assignment (Complete table)

I, _____ (*name of student*) on the date _____, hereby declare that I did not use any AI-enabled tools to create content for this assignment. However, I did use AI-enabled tools to support the process of editing and proofreading. I have completed the table below detailing my use of AI-enabled tools in this assignment.

Provide 3-4 examples of how you used AI in the table below.

AI TOOL	REASON	ORIGINAL TEXT	AI PROMPT	AI TEXT	EVALUATION
e.g. ChatGPT / Grammarly					e.g. What did you learn from this? Did you adopt all the AI suggestions (why or why not)?

Add more rows as needed.

Let's think through some
example scenarios.

You write a text in your native language and translate it using an online automatic translation tool.

You take an assignment that you wrote for another university and submit it for course credit at UTU.

You write a text yourself and then use an online tool to correct grammar.



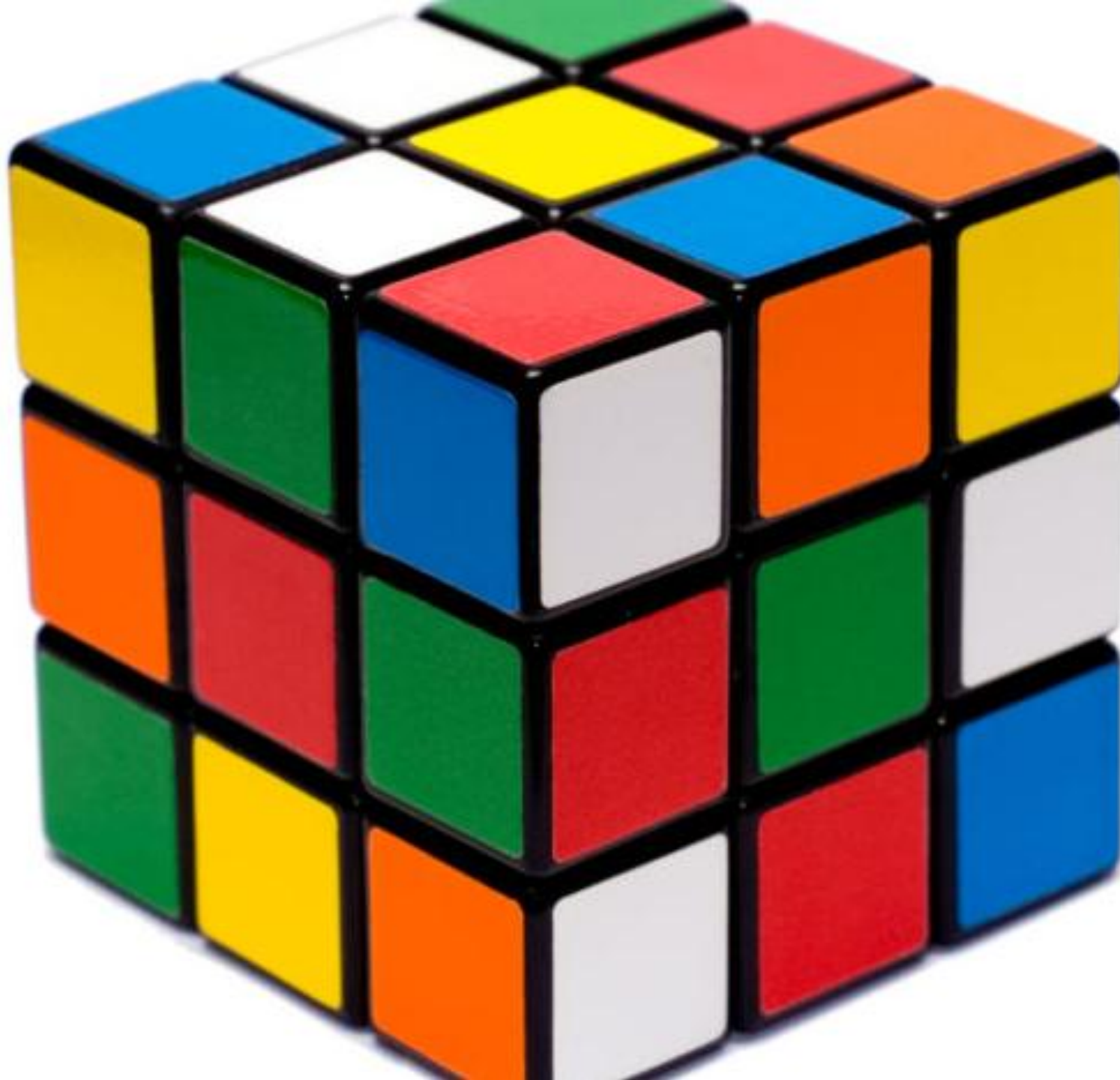
Ask yourself two questions:

1. Why am I using this tool?
(motivation)

2. What will I do with the
output? (criticality)

Three tips for staying out of trouble

1. Keep your receipts! Screenshots, version histories, group texts, source citations, etc.
2. Don't submit an exact assignment that you have used before (even at a different university).
3. Communicate honestly and openly with your instructor to avoid misunderstandings.



Academic
writing is a skill.
It can be
studied,
practiced, and
improved!

**KIEN2901 English for
Multidisciplinary Teams**
Registration closes 11
Sept at noon
2-3 ECTS

**KIEN2033 Intercultural
Communication**
Two different groups
offered
2-3 ECTS

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