

# Academic Writing

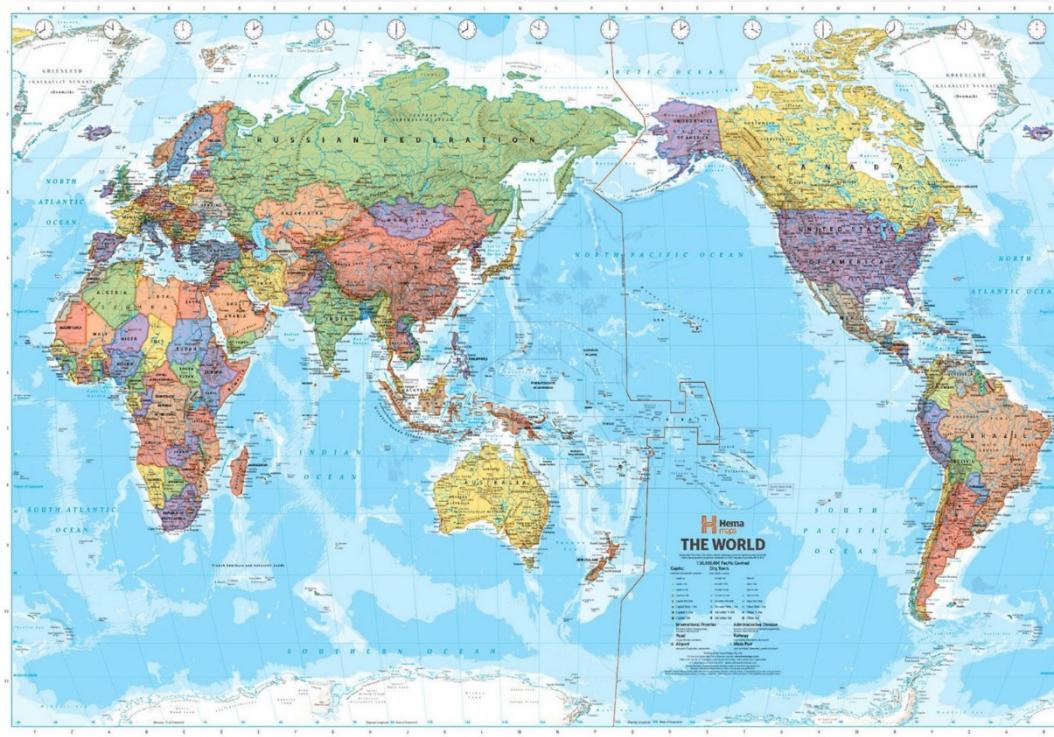
Exchange Student Orientation  
Autumn 2019

Bridget Palmer  
Centre for Language and Communication Studies



Turun yliopisto  
University of Turku

# Where are you from?



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# What is academic writing?

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

There are no native  
speakers of Academic  
English.

# What is academic writing?

Which five words  
describe academic  
writing?

Objective

Colloquial

Formal

Personal

Conversational

Intellectual

Serious

Impersonal

Emotional

Subjective



# What is academic writing?

Academic writing is:

- **Objective** not subjective
- **Intellectual** not emotional
- **Serious** not conversational
- **Impersonal** not personal
- **Formal** not colloquial

Objective

Colloquial

Formal

Personal

Conversational

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Emotional

Subjective

*Clanchy and Ballard (1992), cited in (Jordan, 1997: 244)*



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# Is this text academic?

What you see in the so-called greenhouse effect is that there are some gases that trap heat from the sun in the Earth's atmosphere. It's actually a natural process, and if these gases weren't there, the Earth would be a lot colder and there wouldn't be any human life. Most of the gases that produce the greenhouse effect are in the atmosphere naturally in small amounts. But there's a problem. In the past 200 years the amounts of these gases have gone up a lot because of things we humans do like burning fossil fuels. A lot of people think that's the main reason why the Earth's temperature's gone up by  $\frac{1}{2}$  C over the last 100 years, and that's why the sea level's about 10 centimeters higher than 100 years ago. Now they reckon that the Earth's temperature's going to go up by between 1C and 4C in the next 50 years even if we make big cuts in the amounts of greenhouse gases that we put out. That's because there's a delay – as much as 30 years – between when the gases are emitted and when you notice their effects. If the temperature goes up by that amount – between 1C and 4C – it'll have bad effects on lots of things we do: for instance, there could be floods in some places and droughts in others, and that would make agriculture impossible.



# What changes would you make?

What **you** see in the **so-called** greenhouse effect is that **there are some gases** that trap heat from the sun in the Earth's atmosphere. **It's** actually a natural process, and if these gases **weren't** there, the Earth would be **a lot** colder and there **wouldn't** be any human life. Most of the gases that produce the greenhouse effect are in the atmosphere naturally in small amounts. **But there's** a problem. In the past 200 years the amounts of these gases have gone up **a lot** because of things **we** humans do like burning fossil fuels. **A lot of** people think **that's** the main reason why the Earth's **temperature's** gone up by  $\frac{1}{2}$  C over the last 100 years, and **that's** why the sea **level's** about 10 centimeters higher than 100 years ago. Now **they reckon** that the Earth's **temperature's** going to go up by between 1C and 4C in the next 50 years even if **we** make big cuts in the amounts of greenhouse gases that **we** put out. **That's because** **there's** a delay – as much as 30 years – between when the gases are emitted and when **you** notice their effects. If the temperature goes up by that amount – between 1C and 4C – **it'll have bad effects on lots of things we do**: for instance, there could be floods in some places and droughts in others, and that would make agriculture impossible.



# What do you need to consider when writing academically?

- purpose
- audience
- cultural conventions
- field conventions
- your own voice



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

There is enormous variation in academic style and conventions depending on your field and the purpose of the text you are writing.



Find an example of good  
academic writing in your field.

What makes it good?



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# Does culture have an impact on academic writing?



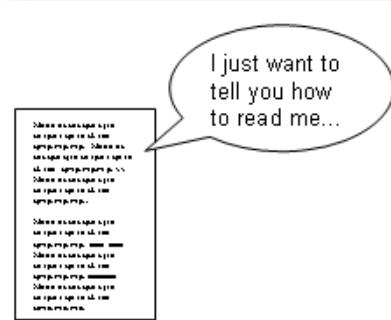
Source: Edward T. Hall, *Iceberg Theory of Culture*



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# Finnish vs. Anglo-American style

Finns	Anglo-Americans
<b>General rhetorical structure</b>	
implicit	explicit
<b>Information placement</b>	
end-weight; start from distance	important points early
<b>Main point</b>	
comes late; in conclusions	start with main point; repeat in results
<b>Text and meta-text</b>	
less text about text	more text about text



# What are some academic writing tools?

LexTutor Text Analysis (based on the Academic Word List)

<http://www.lextutor.ca/vp/eng/>

WEB VP OUTPUT FOR FILE: Untitled (7.74 kb)				
Words recategorized by user as 1k items (proper nouns etc): NONE (total 0 tokens)				
	Families	Types	Tokens	Percent
<b>K1 Words (1-1000):</b>	236	292	<b>903</b>	<b>72.88%</b>
Function:	...	...	(531)	(42.86%)
Content:	...	...	(372)	(30.02%)
> Anglo-Sax	...	...	(138)	(11.14%)
=Not Greco-Lat/Fr Cog:	...	...		
<b>K2 Words (1001-2000):</b>	36	39	<b>45</b>	<b>3.63%</b>
> Anglo-Sax:	...	...	(7)	(0.56%)
<b>1k+2k</b>				(76.51%)
<b>AWL Words (academic):</b>	71	88	<b>161</b>	<b>12.99%</b>
> Anglo-Sax:	...	...	(6)	(0.48%)
<b>Off-List Words:</b>	? 343+?	77 496	<b>130 1239</b>	<b>10.49% 100%</b>

Current profile	
%	Cumul.
<b>72.88</b>	<b>72.88</b>
<b>3.63</b>	<b>76.51</b>
<b>12.99</b>	<b>89.50</b>
<b>10.49</b>	<b>100.00</b>



# What are some academic writing tools?

Corpus Tools (based on the Corpus of Contemporary American English)

<http://corpus.byu.edu/coca/>

and scared about the way money's used in politics. And to try to **ameliorate** that, we try to be as transparent as possible. You have said, A bohemian life making furniture, hanging out in art galleries. Didn't this **ameliorate** somehow, whatever else might be missing? " Now, see, " Russell sectors of the line the two sides were edging to a modus vivendi that helped **ameliorate** some of the worst aspects of trench life. Many Germans could stamp, covering the soil with wood chips, leaves, straw or compost will **ameliorate** the lack of vegetation and create a living medium even without gree could result in an upward bias of treatment effects. There might be ways to **ameliorate** this problem, but existing studies do not report on the timing o sexual autonomy, freedom from any form of moral judgment, and government support to **ameliorate** the consequences of sexual libertinism are pres ? No. But kind of yes. " What Atlanta Public Schools did to **ameliorate** the effects of cheating \* APS developed a 12-week plan in 58 schools that the affirmative defense for patients who use marijuana for medicinal purposes - that is, to **ameliorate** the chronic pain often associated with medical cond . (Fang et al., 2008, p. 2079) # LTEs can help **ameliorate** this situation by raising their CTE colleagues' consciousness about the essential and pervasive r intravenous steroids either before or after rhinoplasty is common based on the belief that they **ameliorate** these unwanted effects. We believe, similar Figure 5). # DISCUSSION # The literature has shown that breast reconstruction helps **ameliorate** the known physical, emotional and psychological impa develop a firm understanding of the alphabetic principle. Training in phonological awareness can help **ameliorate** one of the core causes of poor readi that render them credible to those who hold them will lead to mutual understanding, **ameliorate** many sources of conflict, and have the greatest poter intervention services must be delivered more frequently and intensively and over a longer period to **ameliorate** the challenging behaviors of young chi provide tax preparation, financial counseling, and benefit access to the student body to **ameliorate** the impact of poverty on educational attainment (G

# What are some academic writing tools?

Corpus Tools (based on the Corpus of Contemporary American English)

<http://corpus.byu.edu/coca/>

stake. It's what your brain and body do to help you **meet a challenge**. MATT-LAUER# Well, we've had people come on, experts come on the . So it's very complicated in this type of threat how to **face the challenge**. BURNETT# I mean, it's hard. I understand what you're saying needed to **meet challenges** such as these. He, he needed to **meet the challenge**. There were those who said he would not survive the year he would not great challenges of our day, and I believe we can rise to **meet this challenge**. Our forebears in this country emancipated the slave, and today we are called small groups intentionally split along ethnic lines. # Congregations like New Life **face a challenge** when it comes to small groups: the things that make sma farhow would I balance school and motherhood? # Thousands of women nationwide **face that challenge** and nearly half of Black women in college are rai expert, predicts that " by transforming agriculture, we will not only **meet the challenge** of feeding nine billion people by 2050 but do so in ways that create , but Dr. Abe is above all a terrific conversationalist, so I **accept the challenge**. The son of Holocaust survivors, he was born in Israel but raised in from liberal and less churchgoing segments of the population--soon will stagnate as they **face the challenge** of persuading tens of millions of Bible-believi the limits of government benevolence. Blacks would have to ready themselves to **meet the challenge** of being in a position to take advantage of opportun Dems (where Tim Farron is the heir apparent, though he might **face a challenge** from the health minister Norman Lamb) and Labour is mainly discussing existential crisis # " Imagine being called a geek by the guy who **presents** University **Challenge**" # HugoRifkind on Ed Miliband's mauling by Jeremy Paxma

# What is the role of academic writing in education?

“The sorts of activities that constitute a research paper – identifying, locating, assessing, and assimilating others' research and then developing and expressing your own ideas clearly and persuasively – are at the center of the educational experience.”

Source: *MLA Handbook*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. (page vii)



Turun yliopisto  
University of Turku

# 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: 3)

# Direct quote

OK! (but don't overuse)

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."

(Norris 2016: 3)

Source indicated



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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.

# 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



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University of Turku

~~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



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University of Turku

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 (Norris 2016: 3).

# 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 (Norris 2016: 3).

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



# Detection of plagiarism at UTU

- Assignments are submitted through the on-line plagiarism detection system TurnItIn (in the Moodle platform)
- TurnItIn helps teachers spot possible cases of plagiarism – and also educates students

Mozilla Firefox

https://moodle2.utu.fi/mod/turnitintool/view.php?id=70709&do=allsubmissions

KÄEN2229 Aspects of translation r... | Research proposal/Essay - Part 1 (Moo... | Roadmap | Paper 18 of 18

Originality 0 GradeMark 0 PeerMark Research Proposal turnitin 19% SIMILAR 4 OUT OF 5

English- vs. Finnish-medium medical research article introductions READ ONLY

24 Although other sections of the research article are not in the scope of this study, in the future, the 17 CARS model or some modification of it could be used to analyse also the methods, results, and discussion sections of the articles in the corpus compiled for this study.

3. Theoretical background

3.1. Different genres in scientific articles

The first scientific periodical was established in 1665, and the first scientific articles published were informative letters (Swales 1990: 110). Since then, the scientific articles have evolved, and today 5 scientific journals may contain 5 articles which can be divided into seven main categories or genres: editorials, review articles, research papers or trials, case studies, letters, book reviews, and the news

Transferring data from api.turnitin.com...

PAGE: 3 OF 10

Match Overview

1	Submitted to iGroup Student paper	4%
2	Hirano, E.. "Research ... Publication	3%
3	www.authorstream.com Internet source	1%
4	dspace.anu.edu.au Internet source	1%
5	Webber, P.. "The functi... Publication	1%

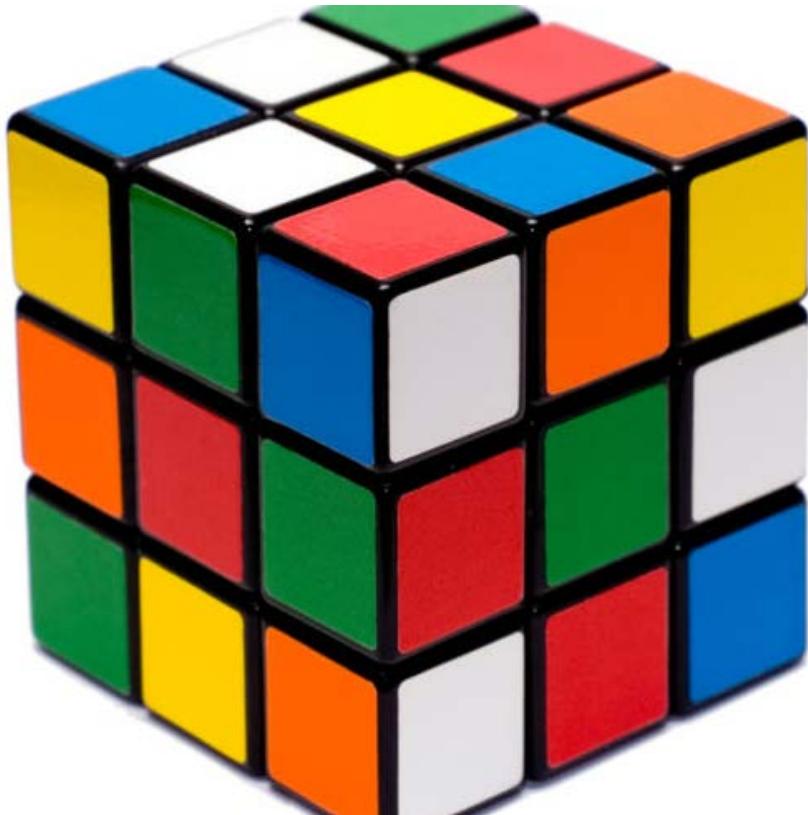
Text-Only Report

9:39 27.8.2014

This screenshot shows the Mozilla Firefox browser displaying a Turnitin analysis report for a Moodle assignment. The report highlights similarities between the student's work and various sources. The Turnitin logo and similarity percentage (19%) are prominently displayed. A 'Match Overview' table lists the top five matching sources, each with a color-coded number and a brief description. The bottom of the screen shows the Firefox toolbar and a status bar indicating the date and time.

Screenshot from Turnitin by David Bergen





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

# Thank you!

Bridget Palmer

Centre for Language and  
Communication Studies

Agora – 2nd Floor

[bmwpal@utu.fi](mailto:bmwpal@utu.fi)

KIEN2033 – Intercultural  
Communication  
Wednesdays 12-14  
Register on Nettiopsu until 4.9



Turun yliopisto  
University of Turku