



Worcestershire
Health Libraries

Academic Writing - a guide

...some tips, tools, and advice.



By the end of this session, we will have covered:

- **What is academic writing?**
- **Structuring your writing**
- **Language** - types and appropriate use
- **What else goes into academic writing**
(citation & referencing)
- **Some examples of academic writing**
- **How to get further help**

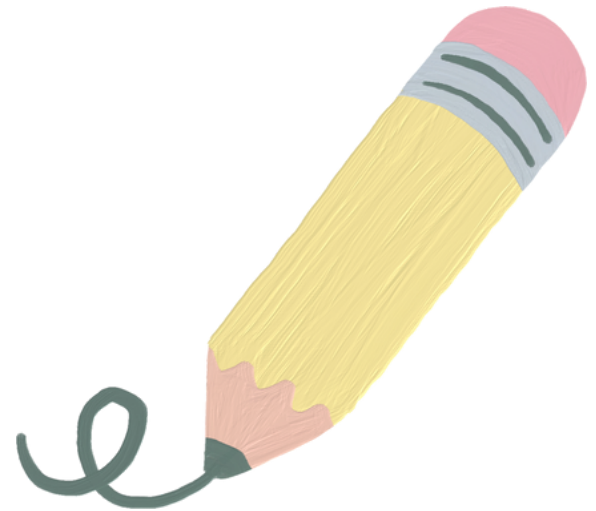


Academic Writing

What is academic writing?

Academic writing is a formal style of writing. It is well structured and precise.

Unlike other forms of writing such as journalism it needs to be objective, which involves minimising emotion and dramatic emphasis in order to focus on the evidence.



(Oxford Brookes University, 2025)

<https://www.brookes.ac.uk/students/academic-development/online-resources/academic-writing>

Academic Writing

So... what is it?

In a nutshell, it's using the appropriate writing style and format, to show your findings or theories that emphasises the research and evidence you've used.

We'll cover here some methods and tips to structure your academic writing and show some examples of good practice.



Structuring your writing



Benefits of a logical structure:

Allows the reader to follow the written work and helps you to follow logical steps in forming your ideas.

Structuring your writing

The 'rule of three' structure: (Peck & Coyle, 2012)

1

INTRODUCTION

gives a brief outline of the subject.

2

DISCUSSION

develops points and arguments.

3

CONCLUSION

draws conclusions from the discussion.

Structure: an example

TOPIC: THE IMPORTANCE OF HYGIENE



INTRODUCTION

The risk of infection needs to be kept at a minimum in healthcare settings – as infection can lead to negative health outcomes. One way of avoiding this is through the use of sound hygiene practices.

DISCUSSION

These practices can reduce the risk of infection by eliminating the presence and transfer of microbes – but only when based on appropriate evidence, and followed consistently by all relevant staff.

CONCLUSION

Hygiene practices that are properly implemented can contribute towards reducing the risk of infection.

Language

The language that you used in your work is just as important as the structure.

Language refers to the tone and vocabulary used

- Informal language can trivialise your point.
- Write objectively and not subjectively.

(Peck & Coyle, 2012)

What to avoid

- Broad generalisations (e.g. ‘always’ and ‘never’).
- Adverbs (e.g. ‘clearly’ and ‘really’).
- Emotional language (e.g. “it is heart breaking that so many are starving”).
- Slang (e.g. “their research was so cool”).

(Walden University, 2019)



Language: an example

Informal

When I got my students to think that science was wicked cool, their test scores went through the roof!

Formal

When I was able to engage with my students and get them interested in science, their test scores improved significantly.



(Walden University, 2019)

Cite & Reference

Citations

It's important to cite your work - so readers can tell where you got the quote or information from and when.

References

All academic work requires using a reference system, for example; Harvard Referencing, APA, Chicago, MHRA.

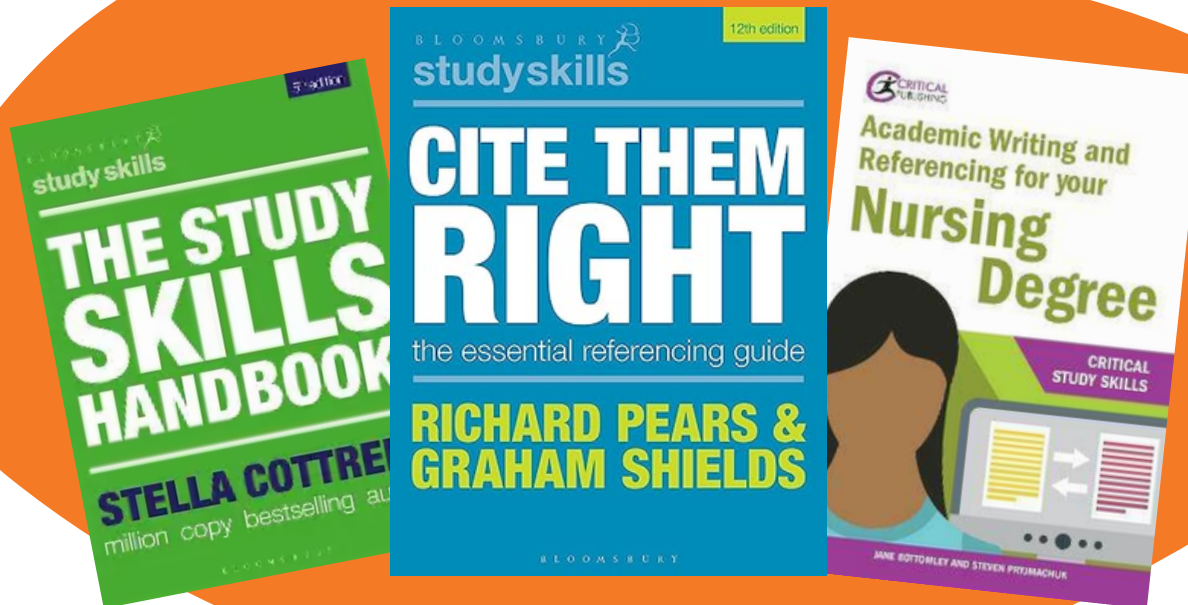


**It's important to check which referencing style you should use.
Ask your marking institution or tutor to be sure.**



Need help with Referencing?

You can check out our resources on referencing or get in touch to request a **Referencing** session with one of our librarians.



www.worcsacute.nhs.uk/libraries

Remember...



We're here to help you.

You can check our website for information, guides, or to get in touch - you could book a session with a librarian.



www.worcsacute.nhs.uk/libraries

References

Peck, J., & Coyle, M. (2012). The student's guide to writing. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

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