

# What is Academic Writing?

Academic writing is a style of writing that is objective, unbiased, and focuses on supporting information with reliable and credible data and evidence. Academic writing is geared toward contributing to the body of knowledge on a topic or field of study.



## Purpose

To contribute to the field of knowledge on a topic.



## Audience

Scholars, researchers, and practitioners within the field of study.



## Tone

Professional, unbiased, formal (not conversational), unemotional.



## Examples

Research paper, peer-reviewed journal article, textbook, lab report, literature review.

# Why Academic Writing?

An academic writing style is used because it presents scholarly information with an unbiased and credible approach that is expected in scholarly writing. The style and tone of academic writing is followed in order to create a professional, trustworthy piece that is free from bias and works to contribute to the body of knowledge on a topic.

# How is Academic Writing Different From Professional Writing?



## Format of Professional Writing

- Typically no title page
- Bulleted lists are often used
- Use of bold font or italics for emphasis
- Tables or charts commonly used
- List of resources not typically included
- Often single-spaced  
(e.g. memos, PowerPoints, reports, emails)



## Format of Academic Writing

- Academic style guide is used (such as MLA or APA)
- Conventional paragraph structure with minimal use of bullet points
- Consistent font used throughout with no use of bold or italics other than section headings
- In-text citations and list of resources always included
- Double-spaced



## Style of Professional Writing

- Avoids discipline-specific jargon
- Seldom use of research
- Uses first person point of view  
(e.g. "I am writing to...")
- Uses active voice
- Sentences are direct and concise
- Paragraphs are brief and focused
- Brief introduction and conclusion



## Style of Academic Writing

- Discipline-specific jargon is used
- Scholarly sources are always included
- Uses third person point of view
- Avoids "I" statements
- Uses active voice
- Sentence structure and length varies
- Paragraphs are well-developed (using P.I.E. structure)
- Fully developed introduction and conclusion

# Resources

Active Voice  
Introduction to APA  
First Person vs. Third Person

Academic Voice  
Paragraph Structure  
Introductions & Conclusions