

An Approach to Academic Writing

Asst. Prof. Bussba Tonthong

An Approach to Academic Writing

3 basic considerations:

A__ __ **I** **E**__ __ **E**

S__ __ **E**

P **U**__ __ **O**__ **E**

An Approach to Academic Writing

3 basic considerations in academic writing:

Audience

Style

Purpose

An Approach to Academic Writing

Audience

Target audience?

For whom am I writing?

- graduate students in general /unrelated field
- fellow students in your own graduate program
- educators or researchers in your field

Style

- Use formal language

Example:

Informal

cut cost

fire

get rid of

set up

formal

reduce cost

terminate

eliminate

establish

Style

- Use common tenses:

Rules:

1. Refer to action in the past- Past simple
2. Refer to action that started in the past and continue to the present and may continue to the future - Present perfect
3. Refer to action that will occur in the future - Future simple
4. Not the past, not the future – Present Simple!

Style

- Avoid contractions

Example:

Instead of don't, use = do not

Instead of wasn't, use = was not

Instead of won't, use = will not

Style

- Use formal negative form

Examples:

- *little* data,
- *little* work,
- *little* information
- *few* studies, *few* attempts, *few* investigation
- *no* study, *no* research, *no* work

Style

- Avoid personal pronouns
 1. the first person pronouns, 'I', use
 - the researcher
 - the author
 2. The second person, 'you', use
 - people or they
 3. The third person, use name
 - Murray's work

Style

- Place adverbs within the verb

Example:

- Murray agrees *strongly* with Chomsky.
- Murray *strongly* agree with Chomsky.
- Then, the problem has been solved.
- The problem, then, has been solved.

Style

- Use appropriate voice

Rules:

1. Use active voice first.
 2. Use passive voice when
 - the object (of the sentence) is the focus. **Ex**
 - the subject (of the sentence) is unknown. **EX**
 - the research method is described or reported.
- EX** - the data is collected or analyzed by using ...

Style

Hedge, hedge, hedge

Examples:

- it is possible that
- it *might* be possible that

Style

Hedge, hedge, hedge

- Verbs that indicate hedging:
 - It seems that,
 - appear,
 - suggest

Style

Hedge, hedge, hedge

Examples:

Words that indicate hedging:

- could, might, likely, possibly, probably, perhaps

Style

- Use verbs to summarize others' work:
 - argue, assume, assert,
 - claim, contend,
 - describe, discuss,
 - explain, examine,
 - imply, maintain, present, reveal

Style

- Use evaluative words to comment others' work

nouns: failure, success, ...

adjectives: important, innovative, interesting,
remarkable, significant, successful,
unsuccessful, useful, ...

Purpose and Organization

- What's the point of my piece of writing?
 - To define some concepts – Extended Definition
 - To list some reasons - Listing
 - To narrate a history or an event - Sequence
 - To describe a process - Process
 - To make a comparison - Comparison
 - To explain a cause and effect – Cause-Effect
 - To propose a solution – Problem-Solution

Listing

Topic: Bottled Drinking Water

Main idea: Bottled drinking water has several advantages.

Listing signal words: one, another, in addition, last, final

Example:

One advantage is..... .

Another is

..... . The last/final

advantage is

Basic patterns of organization

Six common patterns:

- ❖ Listing (L)
- ❖ Sequence (S)
- ❖ Comparison / Contrast (CC)
- ❖ Cause / Effect (CE)
- ❖ Problem / Solution (PS)
- ❖ Extended Definition (ED)

Sequence/Process

Topic: Bottled Drinking Water

Main idea: Bottled drinking water are uniquely processed for KU only.

Sequence signal words: Process

Example:

**Bottled drinking water are uniquely processed for KU only. First, Next, Then, After that,
..... . Finally,**

Comparison and Contrast (**Differences**)

Main idea: Kaset drinking water bottles are different from other brands of bottles.

Contrast signal words: comparative –er/more ...than, unlike, while, whereas, etc.

Example:

Kaset bottles are less expensive than Maha bottles. While one Maha bottle costs 10 baht per bottle, one Kaset bottle costs only 7 baht. Unlike Maha, Kaset bottles are processed by KU laboratory. In addition, Maha bottles are produced at a factory, whereas Kaset bottle materials are based on research,.

Comparison and Contrast (Similarities)

Main idea: Kaset drinking water bottles are similar to other kinds of bottles.

Compare signal words: as ... as, like, too, similar, similarly, etc.

Example:

Kaset drinking water bottles are as expensive as other brands' bottles. For example, Maha bottles cost 10 baht per bottle, one Kaset bottle costs 10 baht too. Like Maha, Kaset bottles both brands are
..... .

Cause/Effect

Main idea: Kaset drinking water bottles cause/result in pollution in the local area.

Cause-Effect signal words: cause, results in, because, as a results, thus, etc.

Example:

Because Kaset drinking water bottles are not degradable, the soil is contaminated with the chemical. As a results, the local area is contaminated. The villagers, thus, have to relocate to another village.

Problem-Solution

Main idea: Kaset drinking water bottles cause some problems for villagers.

Problems-Solution signal words: the problem, solve, solution, resolve, resolution, etc.

Example:

Kaset drinking water bottles are not degradable, so the soil is contaminated with the chemical. As a result, the village's soil is contaminated. However, this problem has been solved by Ku researchers. The researchers have invented the device in decreasing the chemical.

Extended Definition

Main idea:

Kaset drinking water bottles are unique.

Support:

Kaset drinking water bottles have been researched by Kaset University's laboratory. The bottles are made of special materials. In addition, the bottles are specially designed by Kaset designers.

Tips: What do professional writers normally do?

- Brainstorm
- Draft
- Revise
- Seek peer response
- Revise
- Edit

Remember!

1. For reading, use combination of approaches, whole first, then chunk.
2. Expose yourself to reading any text related to the discipline you study.
3. Most important, in writing, use simple, clear, and concise language (not that sophisticated)
4. Keep writing and reading in your every day's life.

Then.....

Let's dance

