

Introduction to Academic Writing

Writing forms the basis for success in both academic and professional life. In order to write successfully, we must approach problems in a critical and organized manner, develop and evaluate solutions to these problems, and present our ideas to our academic and professional communities. With these critical skills in mind, this course aims to strengthen the students' ability to write clearly and effectively in the academic world.

Academic writing and research always occur with specific problems in mind. The conventions, rules, and rhetorical structures that guide academic writing are not arbitrary inventions; they exist in order to facilitate the research and analysis of practical and theoretical problems. For this reason, this course will approach writing as part of a structured investigation into specific issues.

Week	Topic	Assignment due
Week 1	Characteristics of academic writing (general-specific, problem-solution structure)	Academic exercises (maximum length of each – 1 page)
Week 2	Paraphrasing, summarizing, quoting	3 short (paragraph-length) blog assignments
Week 3	Writing an introduction: key principles and moves	Research paper topic and paper outline
Week 4	Research questions, methods and results	First draft of research paper
Week 5	Writing discussion and conclusion sections	Data description assignment (maximum length – 1 page)
Week 6	Editing/using corpora for academic writing	Final draft of research paper

How the course will be conducted:

On the first day of each syllabus week new materials and assignments will be posted. Participants should complete each week's assignment by the first date of the following week. The instructor will provide individual feedback on all assignments within a week since submission. Since this class has no grades, individualized feedback will be the only form of monitoring student progress.