

ACADEMIC STYLE 1

Academic writing aims to be:

formal
objective
concise
accurate
clear

One way of improving the quality of your writing is to check your work for the following types of errors:

1.	Informal language	
	- most phrasal verbs (apart from some exceptions such as <i>set up, carry out</i>)	put off, come up with, turn out - <i>we can look into the issue</i> - <i>lecturers will flag up certain problems</i> - <i>where a seminar kicks in</i>
	- overused expressions	At the end of the day, in the long run
	- imprecise words	get, good, nice, bad, quite, a lot of, lots, hard, a bit - <i>we get a lot of information</i> - <i>it is hard to prepare for a seminar</i>
	- emotive language	absolutely, really, perfect, fantastic - <i>seminars have a tremendous advantage over lectures</i> - <i>it is a perfect way</i>
	- figurative language	<i>no garden is without weeds; pass with flying colours; keep them on their toes</i>
	- inaccurate or over-used signposting	Firstly, Secondly, Thirdly, So, And finally, Meanwhile, In the meanwhile, Last but not least, All in all, What's more As we all know, Anyway - <i>Each student has an opportunity to speak. Besides, seminars can also help students to review</i> - <i>from the writer's point of view</i>
	- adverbial comments	Obviously, Thankfully, Practically
	- contractions	it isn't = it is not; they can't = they cannot

2.	use of personal / possessive pronouns	I, we, you, my, our - <i>Since we are a group of eight people, you have the opportunity to ask your questions.</i>
3.	over-formal or jargon words as used in contracts, formal documents or in court wordy language	it purports to the case in question, in accordance with, to opine, 'shall' , hereof, thereupon - <i>apart from the aforementioned</i> - <i>the first thing I want to say is;</i> - <i>I'd like to say;</i> - <i>it is not without its weaknesses</i>
4.	use of possessives	- <i>During students' study</i> - <i>In Manchester's library</i>
5.	run-on sentences	- <i>The negative aspect of the seminars is that the time given to the seminars is inadequate therefore it is difficult to analyse the topic completely.</i> - <i>So there are plenty of advantages in the use of seminars, however they tend to fail for the above reasons.</i>
6.	over-long sentences	- <i>Seminars are a good opportunity not only for students but also for lecturers, who can evaluate how far students understand the material and also their weaknesses to give extra information or to explain it in other easier way.</i>
7.	use of informal expressions to give your opinion	- <i>I do believe that as a learning method, seminars could be very useful.</i> - <i>By the way, the thing I liked more has been the speaking</i>
8.	vague expressions	etc., and so forth, so on