

PSY256- ACADEMIC WRITING AND PRESENTATION

WEEK 1



Writing Professionally

«Write what matters. If you don't care about what you're writing, neither will your readers.»

Judy Reeves

- ✓ not easy
- ✓ no magical formula

We need;

- knowledge of the topic
- selection of the best words, phrases, and sentences
- to do it in APA style



Beins (2012), APA Style Simplified

Academic Writing

- Formal
- No exaggeration (Not: extremely important)
- Impersonal (no use of “I am”)
- Direct to the meaning
- No final judgement!
- Always allow for arguing and accepting other opinions!
- Focus on the issue, not the writer



Academic Writing

- Choose words with precise meanings
- Avoid words with vague meanings

Compare:

The scientist **looks** at the issue.

The scientist **examines** the issue.

- Formal choices:

He **states** ... **maintains** ... **argues**

- Informal choices:

He **says** ... **talks** about ...



Academic Writing

- Make your claims tentative rather than definite.

This leaves the door open for further discussion and/or research. After all, it's unlikely that you've reached the only possible conclusion!

- Television viewing causes reading problems in childhood.
- Excessive television viewing may be a contributing cause of some cases of reading problems in childhood.



Add some style

- Writing is a very logical exercise, adding style to it will enhance clearness and power of convincing...
- Phrases for transition
- Phrases for emphasis
- Phrases for counterpoint



What does referencing mean?

- When writing an academic piece of work you need to acknowledge any ideas, information or quotations which are the work of other people. This is known as referencing or citing.



Why should I include references in my work?

- You should include references in order to:
 - acknowledge the work of others
 - provide evidence of your own research
 - illustrate a particular point
 - support an argument or theory
 - allow others to locate the resources you have used
- *And most importantly:*
 - avoid accusations of plagiarism



PUBLISH or PERISH

- to exchange ideas
- to gain respectability
- to differentiate the research globally
- to be cited
- for academic requirements



Things to remember

- It is not possible to write well in a second language if you can not write well in your native tongue.
- Simple is the best.
- Clarity, concise wording, and accuracy are essential.
- It's in prose that is more straightforward, objective, and less reflective.
- APA style helps you to write clear, informative, interesting papers.

