

Writing techniques

Course purpose: students will be able to strengthen their writing skills.

*talking about writing. It is important to talk about the writing skills: which language style to use? The arrangement of the ideas and paragraphs, etc.

Academic writing: writing done by scholars for scholars.

Topic sentence: introductory sentence in a paragraph that states the topic of it. Located at the beginning of the paragraph.

Supporting sentence: paragraph sentence that supports topic sentence.

Thesis statement: sentence in academic essay that states what the essay is about.

Concluding sentence: the last sentence in the paragraph should be a conclusion.

Unity: if all sentences and ideas in a paragraph or essay are related to one main idea, then the writing has unity.

Transition words: words that form a bridge from one idea to the other.

Types of sentences:

Simple sentences:

- Has a subject and verb pair.
- A complete thought.
- Independent.

Compound sentence:

- Has two or more subject-verb pairs.
- Two or more sentences joined by coordinating conjunction. FANBOYZ.
- Requires a comma before the conjunction.

Complex Sentence:

- Complete sentence joined with one or more incomplete sentences.
- Connected through subordinating conjunctions: because, after, when,etc.
- Joined with relative pronouns also: who, whom, which, that.
- A comma is required between the sentences.

Compound-Complex Sentence:

- One or more dependent sentences joined with one or more independent sentences.
- A long sentence.
- Respecting the punctuation.

Essay writing:

An essay is a long piece of writing that has to contain:

Introduction: at the beginning starts with thesis statement. Where the writer needs to attract the reader's attention.

Body: contains supporting paragraphs, the writer is free to add as many as he wants as long as he keeps the cohesion.

Conclusion: a paragraph that concludes the main idea of the essay, found at the end.

*Becoming a stronger writer, for work or for fun, isn't as simple as just sitting down and putting words to paper. There are actually different types of writing that serve different purposes, and understanding the goal you're trying to achieve—and the technique that will best serve it—will make your work stronger.

The four main types of writing styles are **persuasive, narrative, expository, and descriptive**

Persuasive: writing that states the opinion of the writer and attempts to influence the reader. For example: the writing used in advertisements and reviews.

Narrative: writing in which the author tells a story, for example: short stories and novels.

Expository: writing in which the author informs or explains a subject to the readers. For example: news and research papers.

Descriptive: writing in which the author tries to paint a picture to the readers. For example: magazine posts and photograph captions.

Writing rules:

- The writing should have one main idea.
- Idea development through supporting sentences: examples, details, and statistics, quotations, etc.
- All good writing has unity.
- Cohesion: the flow of ideas from one to another.
- Basic rules for sentence structure.
- Punctuation: respect of the punctuation rules; capitalization, commas...etc.