



MOHAMED KHIDER UNIVERSITY OF BISKRA
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
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ACADEMIC WRITING IN HUMAN AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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Considerations of Academic Writing

Prof. Aziz MOSTEFAOUI

Ahmed Draia University of Adrar

azi.mostefaoui@univ-adrar.edu.dz

Abstract

One of the challenges facing academics writing in English as a foreign language, particularly when producing a scholarly/research work, is to be able to make a clear distinction between what is academic and what is not. The challenge is even greater for students studying English as a foreign language as they might not have enough experience to write in academic English when drafting their exam, term, or research papers. This is partly due to the fact that academic writing is a skill that is learned and developed through time and practice, and this might not always be the case. It is, therefore, crucial to include 'Academic Writing' as a subject to be taught at the early stages of the university curriculum, either as an independent subject or as part of written expression or methodology classes, so as to provide the learners with the appropriate tools that will allow them to write in a correct, or at least acceptable, academic English during their university course and beyond. Directed mainly to the students of English, this paper tackles the most important elements to consider in academic writing (audience, purpose, organization, style, flow, and presentation) with a view to enhancing their awareness of what academic writing is all about. Accordingly, examples will be provided when necessary to clarify the importance of these considerations in academic writing.

Key words: academic writing, academic English, considerations