

AW - Practical Exercises

A Study these paragraphs and add 1, 2 or 3 in the second column of the grid below:

- I think that essay writing is an important skill for all of us students. Don't you see how many marks are given for this? Lots of students agree that they are marooned if they can't write a decent essay. In my opinion (as a struggling student), we should have lessons in essay writing from day one!!
- It is in fact correct to say that academic essay writing is of utmost importance in the attainment of a university degree. A high proportion of marks are allocated to the compilation of essay assignments as part of a university course to the point where it could be the causation of terminating a degree program because of failure. There is somewhat of an obligation for universities in the provision of services to the student population to educate their students in the intricacies of essay writing early in their undergraduate first year.
- Essay writing is an important skill for tertiary students. Academic essays can attract a considerable proportion of assessment marks in most degree programs. Therefore, students may require a firm grounding in academic essay writing skills at the start of their first year to assist them to succeed in their university studies.

Formal, straightforward, clearly written, correct academic style	
Informal, like spoken (colloquial) language, incorrect academic style	
Too formal, uses too many words, incorrect academic style	

B Being Concise - find alternatives to the expressions shown:

Unnecessarily wordy	Concise		
1. it would appear that	1		2
2. with the exception of			
3. in connection with	3		4
4. are found to be in agreement with			
5. a large majority of	5		6
6. in the event that			
7. a very small number	7		8
8. arrive at a decision			
9. for a further period of ten years	9		10
10. such is by no means the case			
11. in the field of education	11		
12. at the present time, overseas companies are compelled	12		
13. there is really somewhat of an obligation on behalf of the department of health	13		

C Degrees of Certainty: sort these words into the appropriate cell. Are there any you would rarely if ever use in a formal academic document?

absolutely amazing appears to be can certainly	could definitely generally implies undoubtedly	impossible improbable incredible likely may	might never occasionally often must particularly	perhaps probably rarely seems to be seldom	should probably rarely seems to be sometimes	suggests tends to be totally unattainable unbelievable	very vitality wholly would
Low certainty - Non-committal		Medium certainty/Hedging			High certainty		

D Write alternatives to the over-personal texts shown below:

Most of us don't have time to, say, play around with learning grammar and punctuation while we're studying.

Gone are the days when English is drilled into students at school.

At the end of the day, grammar and punctuation still count in your essay writing.

This exercise shows a couple of things about formal writing.

This may be due to a succession of wave after wave of change in education practices.

My observations of the literature on student essay writing are that students who participate in a training program on plagiarism perform better in their assignment tasks. Therefore, I think that all university students should be trained in how to avoid plagiarism.

It was extremely disappointing that the bureaucracy chose to target students who did not understand the rules of plagiarism in the first year of their university studies. Some caring lecturers approached the issue by delivering a series of brilliant workshops to assist the students to overcome their referencing problems. It was a fantastic strategy as most of their students did not have to face being accused of plagiarism.

E Questions and commands - use sparingly:

Poor sentence:	Now, let's discuss how to help students to stop plagiarism.
Your version:	