

ACADEMIC WRITING COURSE

Objectives: To provide the tools for creating accessible, publishable articles in English.

Target Audience: All post-graduate students, researchers, professors, and other academics whose professional goals include publishing articles and books in international journals.

Length: Two days

Academic Writing gives participants the skills and experience necessary for organizing and writing accessible English texts. Participants get hands-on experience in every stage of the writing process, including:

- organizing information effectively
- establishing the purpose clearly
- focusing content appropriately
- using appropriate sentence and paragraph lengths
- presenting technical information in useful form
- writing clear and well-organized abstracts

The two-day course uses individual and group writing, criticism, and analysis to provide direct experience in building these skills:

- using clear language
- making smooth transitions
- sticking to the point
- writing with precision
- organizing material according to Anglo-American norms

Strategic Practice and Purpose of Specific Topics

Practice: Editing for clarity and precision.

Purpose: To acquire the skills for writing so clearly that the reader cannot possibly misinterpret the intended meaning.

Practice: Solving reference problems.

Purpose: To learn to eliminate ambiguity in writing.

Practice: Solving modifier problems.

Purpose: To learn to present information accurately.

Practice: Using parallel structure.

Purpose: To learn to present parallel information in a form that the reader can easily grasp.

Practice: Editing for power (i.e., keeping the reader's attention).

Purpose: To learn to say more with fewer words, so that the reader's attention is focused on the intended subject.

Practice: Editing for logic.

Purpose: To learn how to choose words and language structures that strengthen argument.

Practice: Writing and editing for appropriate tone.

Purpose: To learn to use words, sentence structure, and overall organization to impress or influence the reader in a particular way.

Practice: Eliminating deadwood.

Purpose: To learn to edit for brevity, clarity, and cohesion.

Practice: Outlining.

Purpose: To learn and develop techniques for organizing data logically and usefully.

Practice: Focusing information.

Purpose: To learn to eliminate philosophically interesting digressions that distract the reader's attention from the subject.

Practice: Working with the "psychology of reading."

Purpose: To learn how to write for an English-speaking audience by understanding how English speakers read.