

Academic Language

There are several things to keep in mind when writing academic papers.

Avoid contractions: Students who fail the exam **can't** enter the university. (no)
Students who fail the exam **cannot** enter the university. (yes)

Use formal register: The government needs to **get rid of** the deficit. (no)
The government needs to **eliminate** the deficit. (yes)

Avoid "you" There are several steps **you** can take to find housing. (no)
There are several steps **students** can take to find housing. (yes)

Don't use "etc." Writing well involves planning, drafting, editing, **etc.** (no)
Writing well involves planning, drafting, and editing. (yes)

Don't use !!!! It was a beautiful day! I felt happy!! (no)

Don't use . . . I don't know why. . . I felt bored (no)

Word Choice/Tone

Adjust the language to achieve an academic tone.

- 1) I couldn't believe my eyes. One guy was hitting another guy and blood was coming out of his head like crazy.
- 2) After I got caught cheating on the test, I decided I would never get myself in a mess like that again.
- 3) The author uses really simple terminology which makes it totally easy to understand what he is talking about.
- 4) The actor's performance in the role was awesome; lots of people clapped for him at the end.
- 5) When Napster came on the scene, some musicians lost a ton of money