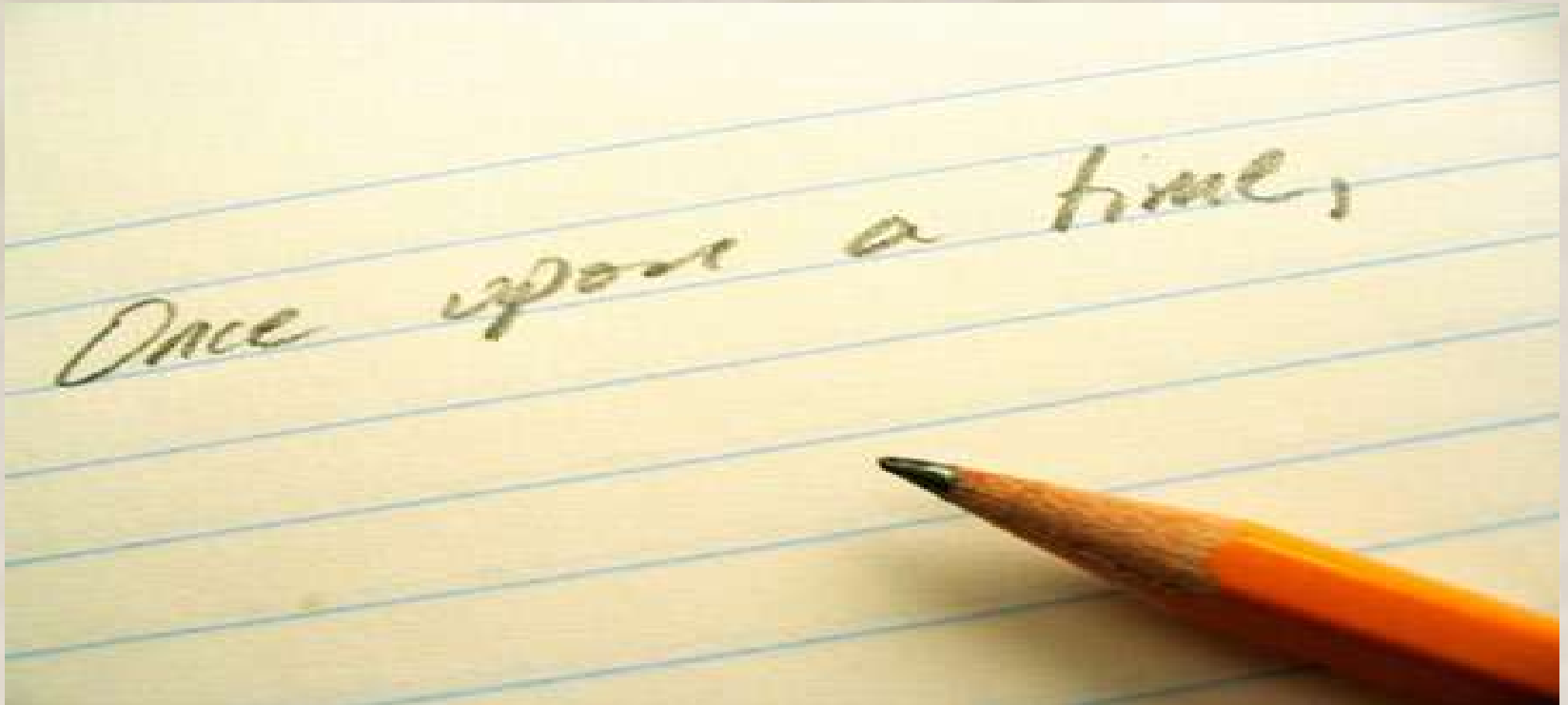


(University) Writing skills



Caryn West RN, Cert CR & GCP, GDip Res Methods

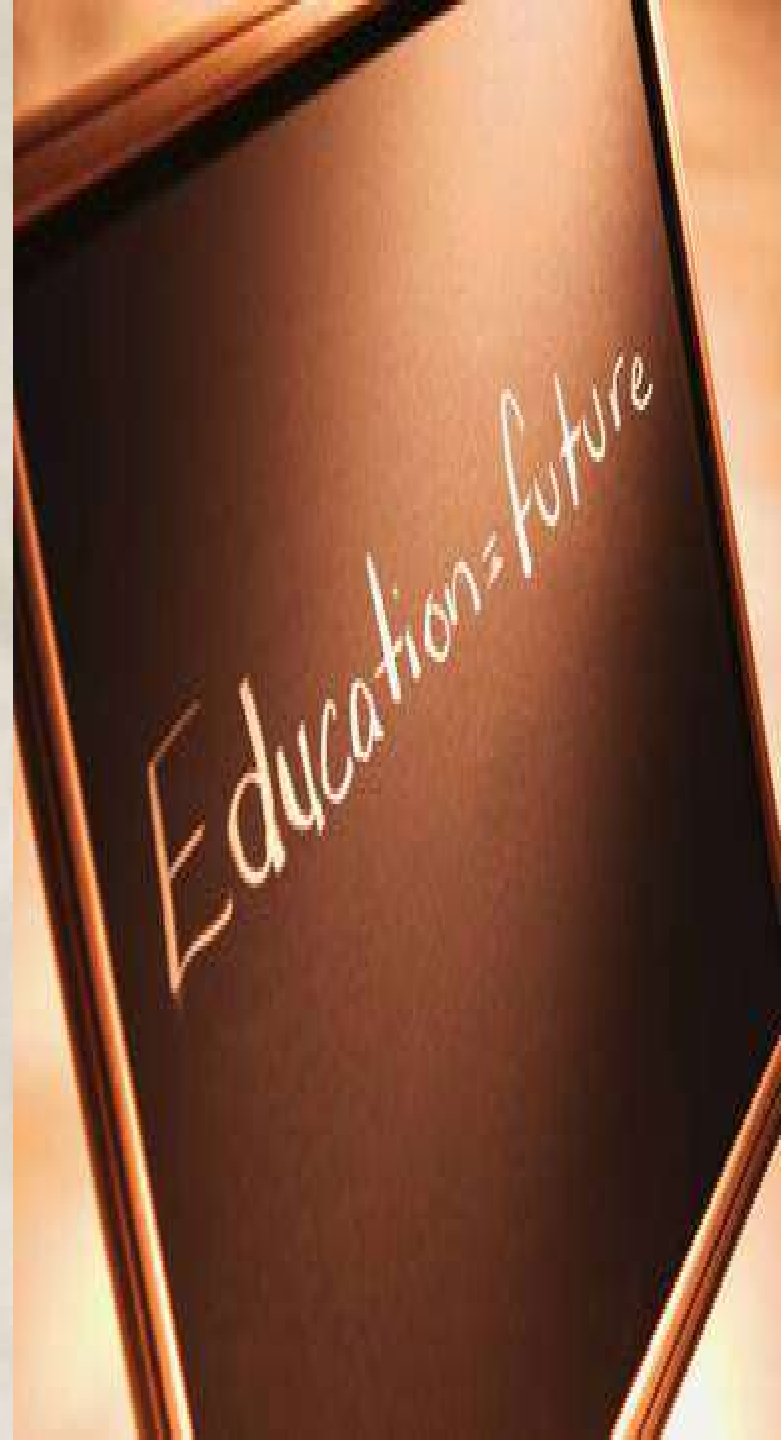


Whether you're a student or teacher, academic writing skills are necessary in today's world.

Essays, reports, presentations and research papers are just some examples of documents written in the academic style.

Academic writing, when used appropriately, presents a polished and professional image.

Academic writing skills encompass strong composition, excellent grammar, and a consistent stylistic approach.



It is a learnt skill and,

practice
Makes
~~per~~fect!

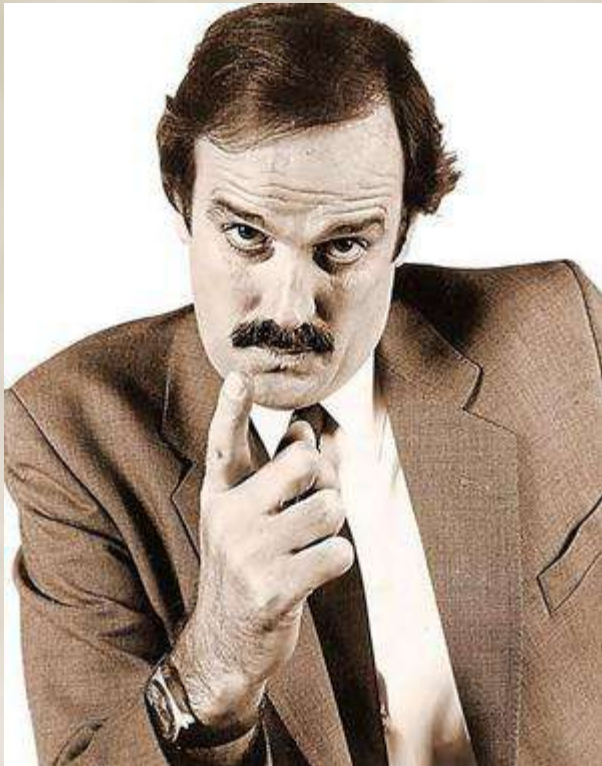


What is academic writing?

Academic writing refers to a particular style of expression.



Characteristics include



A formal tone, use of the third-person rather than first-person perspective, clear focus on the issue or topic rather than the author's opinion, and precise word choice.

**Writers
employing the
formal
academic
style avoid
jargon, slang,
and
abbreviations.**

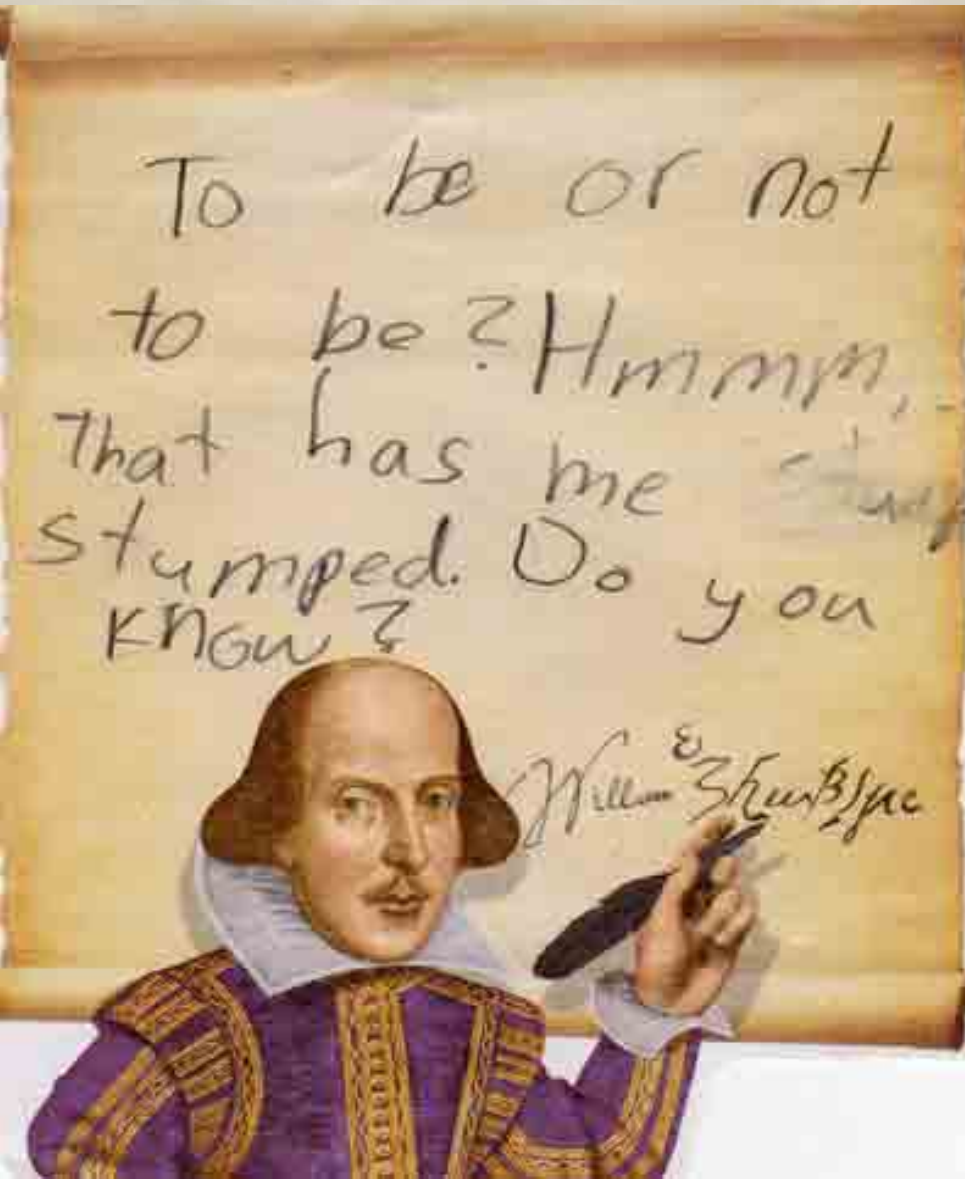
Jargon

LISTEN TO
& ADVICE
& ACCEPT
INSTRUCTION
THAT YOU
MAY GAIN
WISDOM
FOR THE
FUTURE

Academic writing is formal writing. Many novice writers have trouble telling informal writing apart from formal writing. They resort to informal writing, since it's easier and more familiar.



Characteristics of informal writing

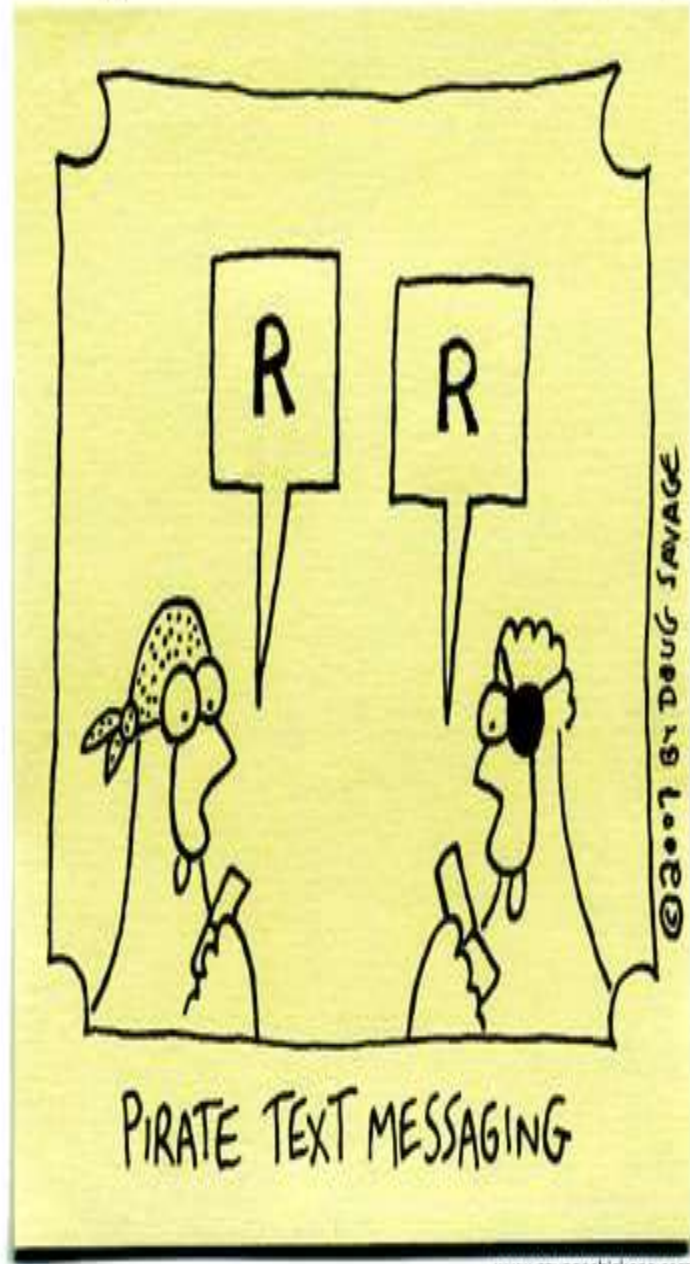


the use of colloquialisms and jargon, writing in the first person or making “I” statements, making direct personal statements, and imprecise word choices.



Just as you probably wouldn't wear shorts and flip-flops to a wedding, there's a time and a place for informal writing.

Informal writing is fine for diary entries, blogs, personal writing, letters or emails to friends.



The most informal writing imaginable is the text message, full of abbreviations such as “R U here?” to convey quick questions and responses.

In comparison, the most formal writing of all can be found in legal documents.

Writers working on papers for school, college application essays, scientific papers, research papers, conference presentations, and business proposals generally employ a more formal style akin to donning a suit or dress to attend a wedding.



Examples

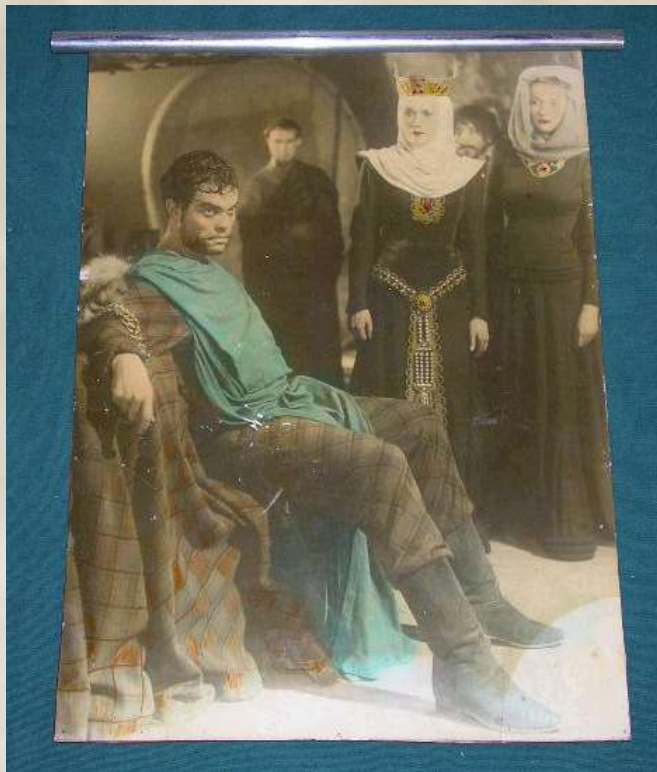
Informal writing:

I think he's a loser.



Formal writing:

Macbeth's horrific choices cause him to lose everything he holds dear: children, wife, friends, crown and king.



The first statement is informal. The writer speaks in the first person, using the word “I”, and states an opinion. The slang term “loser”, is used, which is inappropriate in a formal context. They also uses the contraction “he’s”. If this were in the middle of a paragraph, it may be easier to understand to whom the author is referring.



Taken as a simple statement, however, it's impossible to know whether the writer thinks his best friend, his dog, or a rock star is a loser!

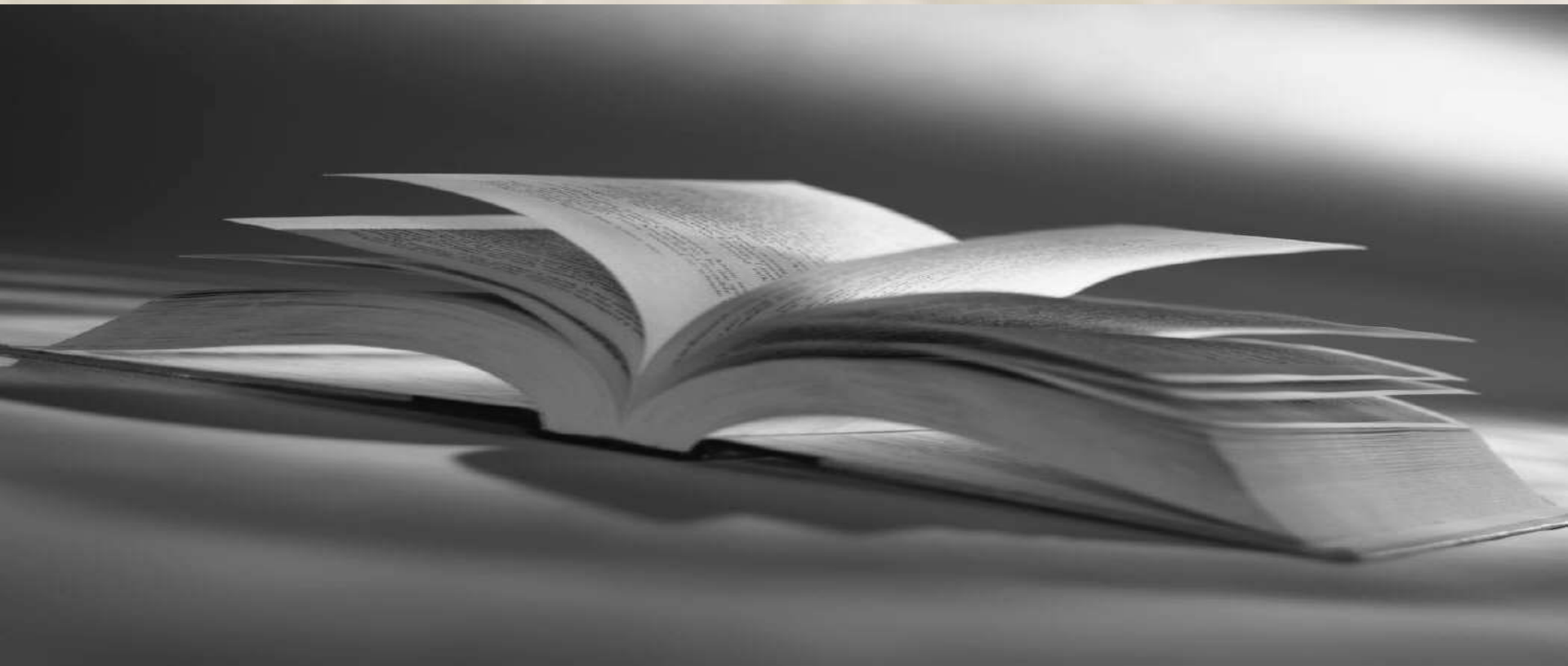


The second example uses an academic, formal style. Written in the third-person, the sentence omits references to the writer and focuses on the issue. Strong, specific adjectives like “horrific” convey the author’s view clearly without resorting to slang. The use of the colon creates a strong, formal feel when properly used here to introduce a list.



Good Guides

- Assignment writing
- A Visual Guide to Essay Writing



Need to know stuff

- Access the JCU T&L Centre
- Layouts (PG 50 Mariner)
- How to find literature
- Referencing



Where's the info ??

- Library
- On-line
- JCU Data bases (turn on remote access)
- Lectures
- Text books
- Tutorials
- News
- Newspapers
- Everywhere!!!



Referencing

- Why?
- Credible sources
- Style – APA (when it is and when it isn't)
- Endnote



What is plagiarism



Copying of passages/text/work/ ideas without proper acknowledgement of the author. This includes other students work.

Safe assignment



Getting started

- Find your time
- Find your space
- Discipline, self & others
- Brain storming, clustering, mind mapping
- Free writing



Introduction

- What is the question?
- Global view from the broad to the narrow
- Introduce the :
 - Who
 - What
 - When
 - Where
 - Why
 - How



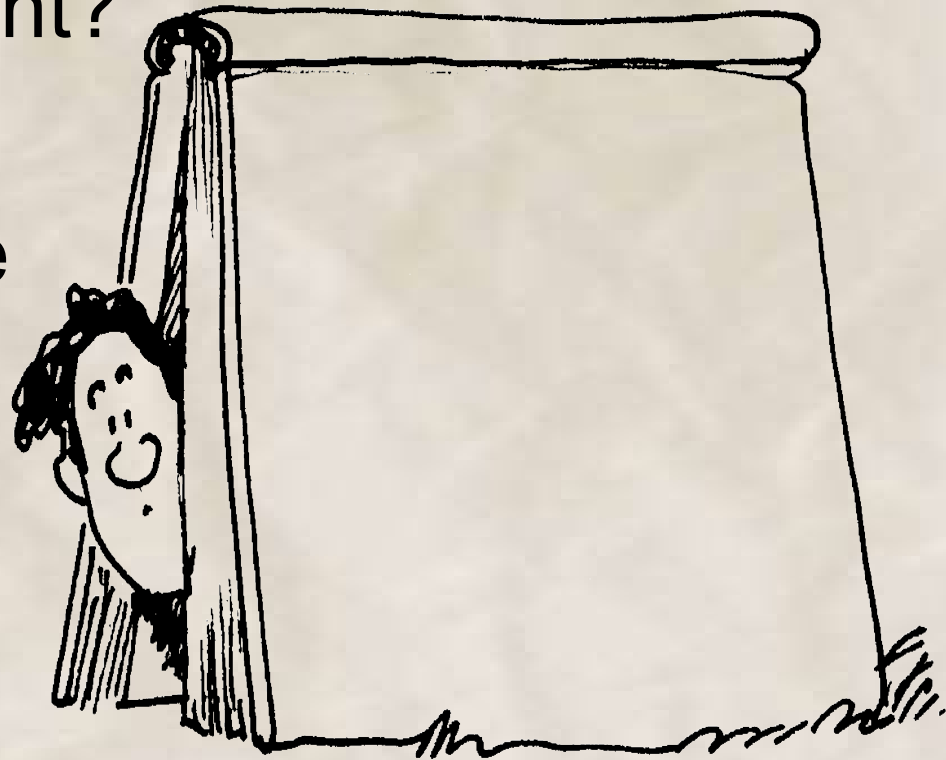
The topic

- Why is it being asked?
- Is it multi layered?
- Does it invite a largely factual response?
- Is it looking for a particular stance such as argue or critique?



Literature

- Is it current?
- Is the author a credible source?
- Is the subject relevant?
- Clustering
- References/endnote



Wikipedia

IS NOT A CREDIBLE SOURCE

Squirrel

This article is about the animal. For other uses, see Squirrel (disambiguation).

A **squirrel** is [a](#) BIG CARNIVEROUS DINOSAUR. IT WILL TAKE YOUR CHILDREN AT NIGHT AND THROW ROCKS AT YOU. [rodent](#) of the family [Sciuridae](#). In the [English](#)-speaking world, it commonly refers to members of this family's genera *Sciurus* and *Tamiasciurus*, which are tree squirrels that have large bushy

Squirrel



Eastern Gray Squirrel, *Sciurus carolinensis*

Scientific classification

Kingdom: Animalia

Beginning

- A quotation – is it relevant
- A question
- An opinion
- An interesting fact
- An irony or paradox
- An analogy
- And anecdote



Body

Your paragraphs should
flow naturally into one
another and
connections should
be made



Paragraphs

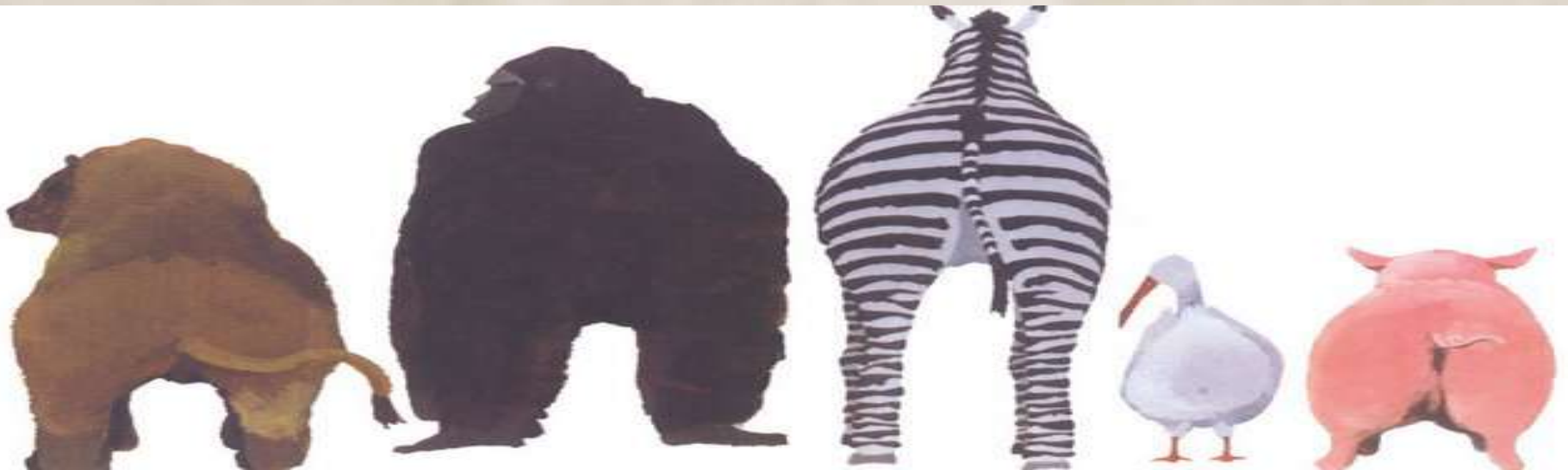
- 7-8 sentences
- Each should be topic specific, preferably with an introductory sentence
- Each sentence state the content/context and then some supporting example which is where the references come in.
- The last sentence concludes the paragraph and moves to the next.

Transitional words

- Joining words
 - » Also, and, again, etc
- Comparing words
 - » Also, in comparison
- Contracting words
 - » Although, but, conversely, despite, even though, however
- Positioning words
 - » Above, adjacent to, below
- Situation words
 - » Before, briefly, consequently, finally, first

Conclusions

- Don't introduce anything new
- Draw in the introduction
- Demonstrate a conclusion or a lack of conclusion
- Give the essay a sense of completeness
- Leave a final impression



Revision

- Links and gaps
- Be ruthless
- Read text out loud
- Content revision – does it answer the question?
- Grammatical and presentation revision
- Spelling!!!! (American vs Australian English)

Edit

Another pair of eyes

Bottom line.... You have to communicate
with the marker you do not get to sit next
to them.



Marking criteria

Mariner pg 55

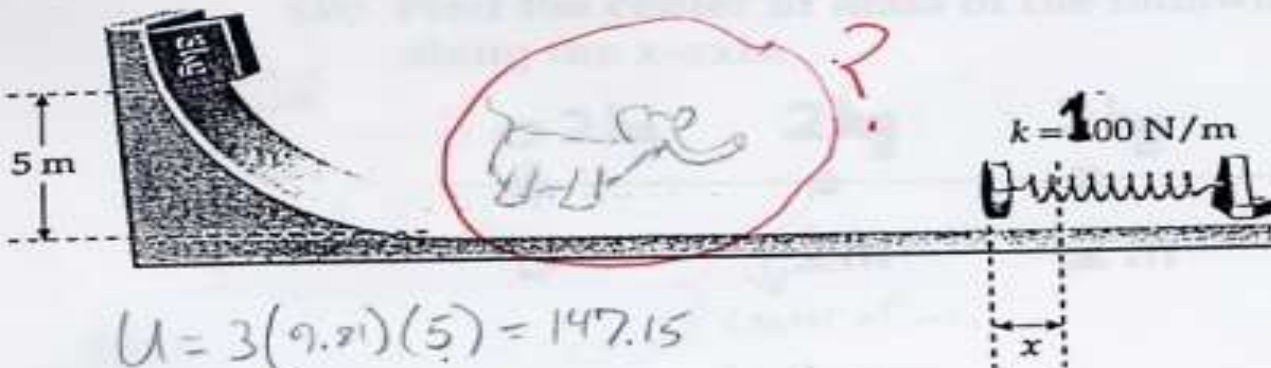
2. A 3-kg object is released from rest at a height of 5m on a curved frictionless ramp. At the foot of the ramp is a spring of force constant $k = 100 \text{ N/m}$. The object slides down the ramp and into the spring, compressing it a distance x before coming to rest.

10

(a) Find x .

5

(b) Does the object continue to move after it comes to rest? If yes, how high will it go up the slope before it comes to rest?



$$U = 3(9.81)(5) = 147.15$$

$$U_s = \frac{1}{2}(100)x^2 = 50x^2 \quad \dots ?$$

NO. there is an elephant in the way.

