

MODULE 2: LESSON 3: What is Academic Writing?

What are the _____
of academic writing?

In Lesson 2, we learned that academic writing is essentially _____ writing., and that this goes back in history (in Europe) to when scientists (in those days they were called _____ or _____ philosophers) exchanged scientific _____ with each other.

Academic writing is written

- _____ people with an academic _____ (i.e. a _____ education),
- _____ people with an academic (or _____) education,
- for the purpose of _____
_____, not for a so _____, per _____,
po _____ or bus _____ purpose.

ACADEMIC WRITING I

So what is academic writing? Academic writing is _____ writing, but what are the _____ of scientific writing? Let's think about what scientists do. Scientists

- a) ob_____ using their _____ senses (s__ght, sm__ll, hear_____, t__ste and t____ch);
- b) they rec_____ their ob_____ations care_____ and acc_____, including taking careful mea_____;
- c) ana_____ - they break things into pieces and st_____ the different p_____;
- d) they identify things and their parts by _____ name;
- e) they try to under_____ how the different p_____ interact with each other;
- f) they conduct exp_____, and ob_____ and re_____ the res_____;
- g) finally, they hypo_____, that is they make a theory about why things happened in the _____, why things are the way they are _____ or what will happen in _____ exp_____.

Here are some extracts from the diary of a British scientist living in the 18th century named Gilbert White. Which of the above list (a~g) can you find in his writing?

(from "The Natural History of Selborne", White, G.

<http://naturalhistoryofselborne.com/index.php?s=April+1791>)

ACADEMIC WRITING I

April 21, 1791

Planted 4 rows of my own potatoes in the garden. Mowed the terrace walk.

April 26, 1791

Some of the oaks, planted on the commons between Odiham & Reading about the time that I first knew that road, begin to be felled. Swallows. Goslings. Cherries, apples, & pears in beautiful bloom along the road: grass forward, & corn looks well.

April 25, 1791

Mowed some coarse grass in the orchard for the horses.

April 22, 1791

The merise, or wild cherries in vast bloom. Grass grows, & clover looks very fine.

April 20, 1791

Finished weeding, & dressing all the flower-borders. Several nightingales between the village, & comb-wood pond. Comb-wood coppice was cut last winter.

April 21, 1791

Planted 4 rows of my own potatoes in the garden. Mowed the terrace walk.

April 19, 1791

Began to use the winter lettuce. Tho' a swallow or two were seen in the village as long ago as the 7th yet have they absconded for some time past! The house-martin is also withdrawn; no Swift has yet appeared at Selborne; what was seen was at Bentley.

April 15, 1791

A nightingale sings in my outlet. Sowed sweet peas, candy-tuft, sweet alyssum, &c. A man brought me half a dozen good mushrooms from a pasture field! a great rarity at this season of the year!

