Academic Writing Style

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Is this academic writing?

We should stop chopping down trees to make toilet paper. It’s INSANE!..... We need trees because they are so beautiful.

Trees are really useful. We need to use them for their wood and to make paper how else wood we print, all the fabulous books that fill our libraries?
Academic Language

**Formal**
uses academic vocabulary, tone and style

**Accurate**
follows language conventions: grammar, sentence structure, spelling, punctuation
Academic Argument

**Logical**
- reasoned, ‘makes sense’, clearly structured paragraphs

**Rational**
- based on facts, evidence

**Impersonal**
- feelings and emotions excluded

**Precise**
- clear and specific

**Qualified**
- when evidence is not precise
Deforestation

The causes of deforestation are very complex. A competitive global economy drives the need for money in economically challenged tropical countries. At the national level, governments sell logging concessions to raise money for projects, to pay international debt, or to develop industry. For example, Brazil had an international debt of $159 billion in 1995, on which it must make payments each year. The logging companies seek to harvest the forest and make profit from the sales of pulp and valuable hardwoods such as mahogany.

Avoid Informal Style

Avoid the following:

- personal pronouns (I, you, we)
- contractions or short forms (can’t, lab, uni)
- acronyms without explanation (J.C.U.)
- informal vocabulary (thing, get, got, go up)

Do the following:

Develop your academic vocabulary through your readings, a dictionary, a thesaurus, academic wordlists
Avoid Generalizations – be Precise

1. Leaves are green.
2. If their habitat is destroyed, rainforest animals will become extinct.

- Add qualifiers (hedging words/phrases): some, most, the majority of, in some cases, in some areas, potentially, etc.
- Check vocabulary choice: ‘will’ or ‘may’?
Avoid ambiguous or unclear use of language

The man went with John. He needed some company.

Let’s eat Charlie.

Add a comma!
Academic Writing

- Formal
- Accurate
- Logical
- Rational
- Impersonal
- Precise
- Qualified
- Concise
References