

Academic Writing Practice

This resource outlines strategies to develop your listening skills for the courses you're taking.

Why academic writing practice?

It is common to feel overwhelmed when given a writing assignment outside of our first language, often from not knowing where to start. Meeting with an English Language Learning Specialist (ELLS) can help you develop a plan and technique for writing in English, as well as find your own voice for your writing assignments.

How should I practice?

There are two steps to take with an ELLS to give you the foundations of academic writing. After this, you will be well prepared to meet with one of the Learning Centre's peer tutors.

	Step 1: Generating ideas and prewriting.	Step 2: Checking your writing and add useful stylistic features.
Goals	To feel more confident with your ideas and skills in written English.	To check your writing for common grammatical and vocabulary errors.
What you will do on your own	Brainstorm: Write a topic or title in a circle in the middle of your paper. Write down any words or phrases that come to your mind when you think about the topic.	Using your brainstorming ideas and writing resources, make a draft of your essay.
What you will do with your ELLS	Bring your ideas to your session. Discuss: Explain to your ELLS how these words and phrases relate to your topic. They will give you some techniques on developing the vocabulary that you produced to ensure that you have a formal, academic lexical resource. Plan: You and your ELLS can explore the Learning Centre Writing Resources together and decide which ones will help you the most in your assignment.	Bring your draft to your session. Explain to your ELLS how you used the resources to draft your paper. Sample: Together, you can skim some writing samples to find helpful language structures, such as vocabulary and grammar, which you can use in your own writing. Modify: Edit your sentences or paragraphs by using some of the language structures that you studied in the sample writing. Follow-up: Once you feel confident that your draft is coherent and you have good control of your language, your ELLS can help you make an appointment with a peer tutor to discuss your argument, evidence, and task achievement.