

A No-Nonsense Guide to Academic Writing

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First words	Why 'no-nonsense'?	7
The essay/dissertation/thesis	What makes writing 'academic'? Why is it wise to think of an essay as a debate, not a manifesto?	8
The title	Your title is best thought of, at least initially, as a question.	13
The Introduction		17
Defining your terms	Here you make a statement of intent: define ambiguous terms in your title;	17
Limiting your scope	place limits on the scope, or focus, of your essay;	20
Stating your position	and state your own (perhaps intuitive) position.	22
Describing your methodology	What data will you collect and how will you collect it and use it? Why did you make the choices you made?	23
The received opinion		25
Sources	Why is it good debating practice to give a fair account of the case you seek to counter? How do you judge the worthwhileness of your sources?	29
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Quotation	How and to what extent will you quote from those sources?	36
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