Basics of Academic Writing

1. What Academic writing is and is not.

(1) It is *not* an expression of your personal statements.

- The arguments in the paper need to be logically constructed.

- Every argument must be supported by authorized / convincing references, facts, statistics, evidence or examples.

(2) It is *not* a collection of your subjective arguments.

- avoid one-sided arguments.

- cover multiple sides of issues and justified your stance

- It is always more convincing to the readers if you have considered alternative explanations or interpretations before coming to a conclusion.

(3) It is *not* opinion paper.

Academic writing needs to be scholarly works. You need to read related literatures and prepare research findings before writing and they provide the necessary stimulus to good writing.

(4) It is *not* writing in a moment

Good quality writing requires discerning preparation. Fact collection is only one of the steps. Persuasive writing displays logic and analysis, coherence and effective communication. [That is why even when two students present the same facts in their essays, they could end up getting different grades.]

(5) Keep to the balanced on word limit. Quality is not measured by length.

2. Basic Components of academic writing

● Title

Title to be studied   main title: sub title

<u>Avoid too broad title</u> and too narrow title

● Problem statements

What are, if any, problems to be studied?

What are, if any, nature and general background of the problems as you focus?

● Research questions

What is a question to be examined in your study?

(You need to defend why and how research question (s) has to be examined)

● Main hypotheses

What is your main answer to the research question?

● Objectives and Significance

How is important your research question?

What are benefits of your study?

● Uniqueness and Originality

How is your work different from existing literatures (cf. literature review)

● Literature review

What is it being studied (cf. uniqueness and originality).

● Evidence

What will be studied?

● Methodology

What methods will be used for analysing evidence?

- Types of evidence you use

1. Quantitative

2. Qualitative

3. something with mix

- Types of approaches you use

1. Global comparison

2. comparison with more than two countries

3. Single countries case studies

● Analysis of Evidence

What is your main interpretation of the evidence?

● Conclusion

What is your substantive conclusion of your study?

3. Organising Structure

- Decide your title
- Organise an outline/plan of your idea
- Develop your research question
- Develop your main hypothesis
- Define and defence your methodology
- Literature review
- Write the body
- Write main arguments
- Write sub-points of arguments
- Elaborate and illustrate main and sub-points of arguments
- Write introduction
- Write conclusion
- Review whole parts of paper and add any finishing touches

A weekly Assignment

(I am going to feed back your previous assignment within this week)

Construct a brief structure of your planed ideas with several lines for these components.

Guiding length is 1000-1500words totally (not exceed 2000 words).

- Title
- Problem statements
- Research questions
- Main hypotheses
- Objectives and Significance
- Uniqueness and Originality
- Literature review (just listed *three* related literature with a brief summary)
- Evidence
- Methodology
- Analysis of Evidence
- Conclusion

Deadline: 1 of December 12:00 AM