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THINGS TO AVOID IN ACADEMIC WRITING

NEVER start an academic writing assignment by stating “In this paper...” or “Today I will tell you about...”

-Your introduction should speak for itself - the reader *should* be able to see the topic (and stance when appropriate) based on the first few sentences.

-Introductions should start with background information, an engaging fact/stat, or an interesting and relevant quote to lead into the paper.

GOOD: According to John Locke, natural rights should be granted to citizens...

BAD: In this essay I will be writing about John Locke’s theory of natural rights then tell you about...

Using Comic Sans, especially in yellow, is the worst idea ever.

NEVER use distracting, unprofessional, or inconsistent fonts!

-Keep is simple! Times New Roman, size 12, double spaced is *always* acceptable.

-Avoid using color unless asked for.

NEVER write from first person (“I”) or use second person (“you”) in an academic piece of writing.

-The audience is open and the writer is not penning a letter *to* someone.

-State your opinion as fact. What you write will communicate your stance



Checking for plagiarism is easily done thanks to the internet. Don’t get caught cheating.

NEVER use another person’s work in its entirety and do not forget to cite authors/documents when using excerpts.

-Plagiarism is illegal - do not earn a zero or face more severe consequences because of laziness or ignorance.

NEVER use contractions.

-Write them out in full instead.

-Don’t = do not -Won’t = will not -It’s = it is Can’t = cannot....

>:)

Is what teachers will feel if they see writers use emoticons.

NEVER use informal, casual, TXT, emoticons, or rhetorical questions.

-Do not start or end an essay with “What is an essay? An essay is...” (rhetorical question)

-Informal/Casual = “was really cool because...”

