

## **Academic Literacy II**

### **Assignment 2**

#### **Introduction**

Abstract writing is a crucial skill in academic writing, as it requires you to concisely summarise complex information into a brief and clear statement. In this assignment, you will be asked to write an abstract for a research paper. Before you attempt this assignment ensure that your lecturer has explained how you should go about abstract writing.

#### **Instructions**

To complete this assignment, you will need to read the short research paper **titled “First-year university students’ views on academic writing” by Patrick P Paulus (2023)**. Identify the main argument or thesis and distil it into a clear and concise abstract. Your abstract should be 130 to 150 words long. Your abstract should accurately reflect the content and significance of the research paper. You will also need to pay attention to the language and style of academic writing, including appropriate use of terminology, tone, and structure.

As you work on this assignment, consider the purpose of an abstract and its intended audience. An abstract should provide a summary of the research paper that allows readers to quickly understand the topic and significance of the research. It should be written in a way that is accessible to a wide range of readers, including those who may not be familiar with the specific field of study. Do not forget to give key words. You do not need a cover page.

**The abridged research paper starts on the next page.**

**Title:** *First-year university students' views on academic writing*

**Author:** *Patrick P. Paulus*

**Year:** *2023*

## **Introduction**

Academic writing is an essential component of higher education, and it is an integral part of students' academic journey. Despite its importance, many students find academic writing challenging, and they struggle to meet the academic standards expected of them. The purpose of this research paper is to explore students' views on academic writing and understand their experiences and challenges. The study aims to answer the following research question: What are students' views on academic writing, and what are their experiences and challenges?

## **Literature Review**

Academic writing is a complex and multifaceted process that involves a wide range of skills, including critical thinking, research, analysis, and writing. According to Flower and Hayes (1981), academic writing is a recursive process that involves multiple stages, including prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing. However, despite its importance, academic writing is often challenging for many students, and they struggle to meet the academic expected standards.

Several factors contribute to students' difficulties with academic writing. For instance, students may lack the necessary skills and knowledge to write academically, such as grammar, punctuation, and citation skills (Benesch, 2013). Additionally, students may struggle with time management, procrastination, and anxiety, which can negatively impact their writing performance (Silva & Matsuda, 2010).

## **Methodology**

To explore students' views on academic writing, a qualitative research approach was used. The study involved conducting interviews with ten undergraduate students from a university in Namibia. The participants were selected through purposive sampling, and they were chosen based on their academic level, major, and writing experience. The interviews were conducted in person and lasted for approximately 30 minutes each. The data collected from the interviews were transcribed and analysed using thematic analysis.

## **Results**

The analysis of the data revealed several themes related to students' views on academic writing. The first theme was the importance of academic writing, and all participants acknowledged the significance of academic writing in their academic journey. They highlighted that academic writing helps them develop critical thinking skills, research skills, and analytical skills.

The second theme was the challenges of academic writing, and the participants identified several challenges they face when writing academically. These challenges included time management, writer's block, and lack of motivation. Additionally, some participants reported struggling with grammar, punctuation, and citation skills.

The third theme was strategies for improving academic writing, and the participants shared various strategies they use to improve their academic writing skills. These strategies included seeking feedback from professors, using writing resources, such as writing centres and online writing tools, and practising writing regularly.

### **Discussion**

The findings of this study suggest that academic writing is an essential part of students' academic journey, and it helps them develop a wide range of skills. However, students face several challenges when writing academically, including time management, writer's block, and lack of motivation. Additionally, some students struggle with specific writing skills, such as grammar, punctuation, and citation. Nonetheless, students use various strategies to improve their writing skills, such as seeking feedback from tutors and lecturers and using writing resources.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, this study provides valuable insights into students' views on academic writing, their experiences, and challenges. The study findings highlight the importance of academic writing in students' academic journey and the need to support students in developing their writing skills. Additionally, the study emphasises the importance of providing students with resources and support to overcome the challenges they face when writing academically. Ultimately, the study underscores the need to recognise the complexities of academic writing and the challenges students face and to develop effective strategies to support students in developing their academic writing skills.

**References have been removed.**