

Writing for College: Strategies for Success

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What is academic writing?

- Writing for an audience
- Writing about topics and research subjects that interest and meet the expectations of your audience.
- Writing for a purpose—to analyze, argue, compare, contrast, define, describe, discuss, evaluate, explain, illustrate, inform, narrate, report, show cause and effect, summarize, trace, etc.





How is college writing different from other writing?

- More than just the standard five-paragraph essay
- Requires knowledge of proper academic format (MLA, APA, CMS, CSE, etc.)
- Requires research from books, scholarly journals, credible online sources, etc.
- Requires critical thinking about subjects or ideas you read about, discuss in class, locate research to support, and ultimately respond to in writing
- Less personal and more informative



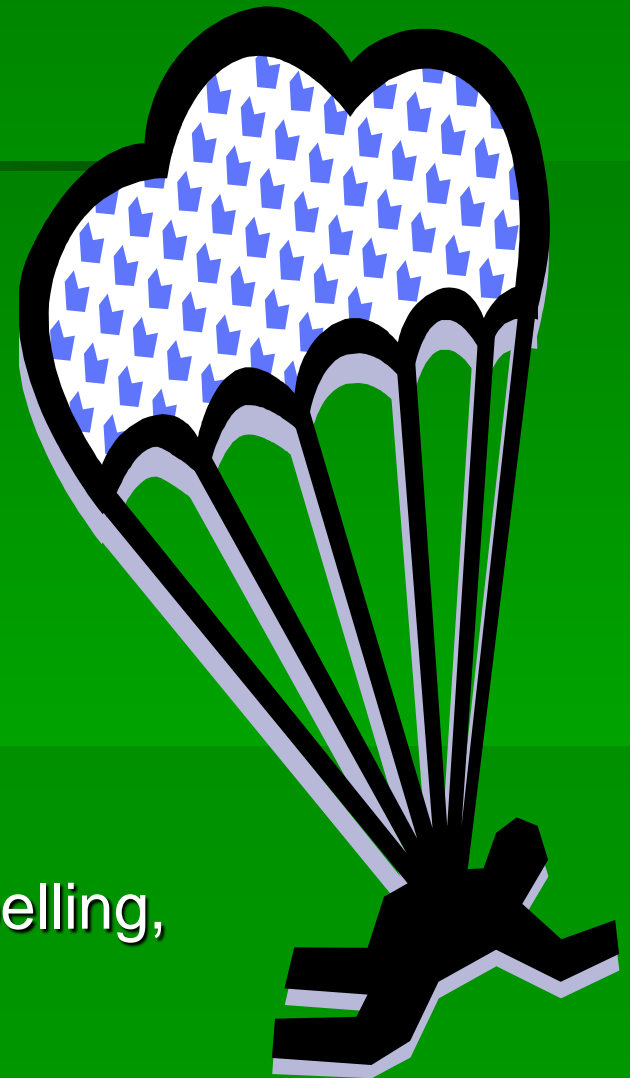
Some characteristics of good college writing:

- Higher level of diction than you use in speech
- Sentence variety
- Clear and logical ideas
- Evidence for arguments
- Standard grammar and punctuation
- Research cited properly
- Organized well
- Considers audience and purpose for writing



Features instructors want to see in college papers:

- An interesting topic
- A narrow topic to fit the essay's page limit
- A title that expresses what is contained in the paper
- An organized, clear structure
- Transitions between paragraphs and ideas
- Evidence to support claims
- Language easy to understand
- Few, if any, mistakes in grammar, spelling, and punctuation



What instructors expect from college writers:

- Come to class prepared
- Observe classroom etiquette
- Manage time well
- Use good study habits
- Find and use writing resources
- Be willing to accept criticism
- Understand that writing is a process
- Avoid plagiarism
- Receive help from the Writing Center

