

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, creating a dynamic, layered effect. A white rectangular box is positioned on the right side, containing the text.

Elements of writing; arguments cause and effects, cohesion and comparison

- **Argument in the academic writing is usually the main idea, which is often called a “claim” or a “thesis statement,” and it is backed up with evidence that supports this idea.**
- **You will need to make some sort of claim and use evidence to support it, and your ability to do this well will separate your thesis from those of students who see thesis writing as mere accumulations of facts and details.**

Examples:

- The outcome of the root canal treatment is dependent on the severity of the endodontic infection and size of periapical lesions (Sjögren et al., 1997). However, it has been argued that disinfection of the root canal system by the irrigation procedure is the most crucial step of a successful root canal treatment, because it has a considerable effect on the complete elimination of root canal infection (Verhaagen et al., 2012). Therefore, success of the root canal treatment may be enhanced by a better understanding of the nature of the interaction between the irrigant and bacterial biofilm within the root canal system.
- Recent evidence suggests that continual replacement of the irrigant solution within the root canal system is an essential factor for maximum chemical action (Basrani, 2015). It has been argued that the confinement of the root canal has an effect on the fluid dynamics of the irrigant by reducing the velocity of irrigation and consequently reducing the irrigant refreshment (Verhaagen et al., 2012). In addition, preparation of the root canal to apical size 25, and taper 0.06 was not adequate for an optimum irrigant flow and penetration (Hsieh et al., 2007; Boutsoukis et al., 2010a). This demonstrates that an effective penetration of irrigant could be achieved in the apical part of at least size 30 and taper 0.06 root canal (Boutsoukis et al., 2010b).

Organisation academic writing

The discussion section can be organised in two ways;

- Vertical: by grouping the benefits in one paragraph and the disadvantages in another;
- Horizontal: by examining the subject from different viewpoints.

the advantages of each format

- Vertical: a simpler pattern suitable for short essays.
- Horizontal: this allows a more complex approach in longer essays.

Language in academic writing

- Avoid personal phrases such as in my opinion or personally, I think . . .
- Use impersonal phrases instead such as:

It is generally accepted that . . .

It is widely agreed that . . .

Most people appear to . . .

It is probable that . . .

The evidence suggests that...

- These phrases suggest a minority viewpoint:
- It can be argued that.....
- One view is that.....

- When you are supporting your opinions with sources use phrases such as:
- According to Emerson (2003).....
- Poledna (2007) claims that.....

Counter-arguments academic writing

- Counter-arguments are ideas that are opposite to your ideas.
- In an academic discussion you must show that you are familiar with both sides of the argument, and provide reasons to support your position. It is usual to deal with the counter-arguments first, before giving your view.

Cause and effect academic writing

The language of cause and effect is to put the emphasis on either the cause or the effect. In both cases, either a verb or a conjunction can be used to show the link.

(a) Focus on causes:

With verbs

The heavy rain caused the flood
created
Led to
resulted in
produced

With conjunctions

Because of the heavy rain there was a flood
Due to
Owing to
As a result of

Cause and effect academic writing

A conjunction is a part of speech that is used to connect words, phrases, clauses, or sentences.

(b) Focus on effects:

With verbs

The flood was caused by the heavy rain
was produced by
resulted from
(note use of passives)

With conjunctions

There was a flood due to the heavy rain
because of
as a result of

Cohesion means joining a text together with reference words (e.g. he, theirs, the former) and conjunctions (e.g. but, then) so that the whole text is clear and readable.

Reference words used to avoid repetition:

Leonardo da Vinci was a fifteenth-century Italian genius who produced only a handful of finished works. However, they include the Mona Lisa and the Last Supper, the former perhaps the most famous painting in the world. Although he is remembered mainly as an artist, he also was an innovative engineer, scientist and anatomist.

Examples of reference words and phrases

Pronouns	he/ she/ it/ they
Possessive pronouns	his/ her/ hers/ its/ their/ theirs
Objective pronouns	her/ him/ them
Demonstrative pronouns	this/ that/ these/ those
Other phrases	the former/ the latter/ the first/ the second/ such a

- The comparison might be the subject of the essay, or might provide evidence for the argument.
- It is important to explain clearly what is being compared and to make the comparison as accurate as possible.
- A compare and contrast section is to discuss the similarities and differences between two or more topics.

□ Transitions are key in compare and contrast essays, where you will be moving frequently between different topics or perspectives.

- Examples of transitions and phrases for comparisons: as well, similar to, consistent with, likewise, too
- Examples of transitions and phrases for contrasts: on the other hand, however, although, differs, conversely, rather than.

When drawing comparisons or making contrasts, be sure you are dealing with similar aspects of each item. To use an old cliché, are you comparing apples to apples?

- **Example of poor comparisons: Kubista studied the effects of a later start time on high school students, but Cook used a mixed methods approach.**
- **Example of analogous comparisons: Cook used a mixed methods approach, whereas Kubista used only quantitative methods. (Here, methods are clearly being compared, allowing the reader to understand the distinction.)**