



**Mustansiriyah University
College of Pharmacy**

English Lecture 10
Writing

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Academic Writing

- ▶ In this task you will be presented with a topic and will be tested on your ability to respond by
 - ▶ giving and justifying an opinion
 - ▶ discussing the topic
 - ▶ summarizing details
 - ▶ outlining problems
 - ▶ identifying possible solutions
 - ▶ supporting what you write with reasons
 - ▶ arguments and relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.



General Advices in academic writing

- Read the questions carefully and make sure you understand them.
- Plan each task to make sure you answer all parts of the question and organise your ideas well when you write.
- **DON'T** spend too much time planning. No more than 10 minutes.
- **DON'T** write a first draft in full and then write a second. You will not have time for this.
- Write in paragraphs.
- Use a variety of language and connecting words/phrases to join ideas together (e.g. as a result, however).
- Leave time to review your writing. Read it once to check it makes sense, then read it again and check for any incorrect language, punctuation and spelling.



Example

Write about the following topic:

▶ ***Supermarkets should only sell food produced from within their own country rather than imports from overseas.***

▶ ***What are your opinions on this?***

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Model answer

Introduce
your ideas

Nowadays, supermarkets are stocked with food products from around the world. Some would argue that it would be better if food produce was not imported. I firmly believe that this view is correct, and will discuss the reasons why in this essay.

Support
your first
idea with
examples

It is certainly the case that importing food can have a negative effect on local culture. This can be seen in countries such as Japan where imported food has become more popular than traditional, local produce, eroding people's understanding of their own food traditions. Although some would claim that this is a natural part of economic development in an increasingly global world, I feel strongly that any loss of regional culture would be detrimental.

Blue color: represent connecting phrases

Red color: represent high level academic words

Under line words: represent prepositional phrases and lexical bundles and some useful extra sentences can used in academic writing.

Support your second idea with examples

A second major reason to reduce imports is the environmental cost. Currently, many food imports, such as fruit, are transported thousands of miles by road, sea and air, making the product more **expensive** to buy and increasing pollution from exhaust fumes. Despite the fact that the trade in food exports has **existed** for many years, I am convinced that a **reduction** would bring significant **financial** and environmental **gains**.

Give a contrast idea

However, many jobs depend on food exports and some less developed countries may even depend on this trade for **economic** survival. In spite of this, the importance of developing local trade should not be **undervalued**.

Conclude the topic with your opinion

In conclusion, I am certain that reducing food imports would have cultural and environmental **benefits**. What is more, the local economy should, in time, **prosper commercially** as the **demand** for local and regional products **remains** high resisting the competition from overseas.

Prepositional connecting phrases you may needed in academic writing

► **As**

as far as
a result of
as well as

► **At**

at the expense of
at first
at an advantage
at risk of,

► **By**

by means of
by the time of
by then

► **For**

for example
for instance
for the moment
for the sake of

► **In**

in accordance with
in addition to
in case of
in contrast to
in the face of
in order to
in need of
in spite of
in view of

► **On**

On account of
On the basis of
On the ground of
On purpose
On the side of

► **Over**

over a period of

► **Under**

under consideration
under the control of
under discussion
under the impression

► **With**

with the exception of
with regards to
with respect to
with the development of
with the treat of

► **Within**

within the framework of

► **Without**

Without exception
Without success
Without the support of

Common lexical bundles

Three-word	Four-word	Five-word
in order to	on the other hand	on the other hand the
in terms of	at the same time	at the end of the
one of the	in the case of	it should be noted that
the use of	the end of the	it can be seen that
as well as	as well as the	due to the fact that
the number of	at the end of	at the beginning of the
due to the	in terms of the	may be due to the
on the other	on the basis of	it was found that the
based on the	in the present study	to the fact that the
the other hand	is one of the	there are a number of
in this study	in the form of	in the case of the
a number of	the nature of the	as a result of the
the fact that	the results of the	at the same time the

most of the

there is a

according to the

the present study

part of the

the end of

the relationship between

in the following

the role of

some of the

as a result

it can be

the fact that the

as a result of

in relation to the

at the beginning of

with respect to the

the other hand the

the relationship between the

in the context of

can be used to

to the fact that

as shown in figure

it was found that

is one of the most

it is possible that the

one of the most important

play an important role in

can be seen as a/the

the results of this study

from the point of view

the point of view of

it can be observed that

this may be due to

an important role in the

in the form of a



Extra example 1

Write about the following topic:

- ▶ ***In some countries it is thought advisable that children begin formal education at four years old, while in others they do not have to start school until they are seven or eight.***

How far do you agree with either of these views?

- ▶ Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.
- ▶ Write at least 250 words.



Possible answer:

- ▶ In some parts of the world, parents **encourage** their children to begin studying **while** they are still toddlers, using a **variety** of books and computer games **which** teach them to count or to learn their letters. The parents choose a first school for their four-year-old **which** focuses on **academic** ability in order that, by the time they enter the next school, the children are well ahead of their age group, with high marks in important **subjects** such as maths and language, or are **equipped** to take competitive **entrance** examinations for other schools if that is **relevant**.
- ▶ **In other countries**, children are at home or playschool **until** they are **around** seven years old. They do not even begin to study reading **until** then, **but** they listen to and tell stories, they paint and draw, they make models and build tree houses, they swim and play ball games, they keep fish and grow plants in the playschool garden.

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- ▶ In my opinion, the question is not which method **produces** the most able students, because all over the world, the **majority** of those who reach university do so at around the same age, wherever they are educated. A brilliant scientist from one country may be working in a laboratory **alongside** an equally brilliant scientist from another country and the **educational** start of each **career** may have been in **complete** contrast. **Therefore**, it is clear that the two **approaches** can both produce able academics, all other things being equal. **Nevertheless**, it is probable that one method is **preferable** to the other.
 - ▶ It seems to me that spending early childhood **struggling** to **acquire** academic skills in a competitive **atmosphere** is not the best way to produce a **balanced personality**. Learning through play and developing social skills **equips** a child for adult life in **essential** ways that the competitive parents **neglect**. If the child has academic ability, this will manifest itself as the child develops and does not need to be forced at an early age.



Extra example 2

Write about the following topic:



- ▶ ***Many people believe that the high levels of violence in films today are causing serious social problems.***

What are these problems and how could they be reduced?

- ▶ Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.
- ▶ Write at least 250 words.

Possible answer

- ▶ The increasing amount of **violence** that is shown **regularly** in films has been a cause of **concern** for some time. Such films make violence appear **entertaining**, exciting and even something to be copied. **However**, it seems to be increasingly clear that this development is causing problems in our **society**.
- ▶ **First of all**, those who enjoy such films **eventually** stop associating the violence with any real **consequences**. They **therefore** lose their sense of reality and no longer take violence seriously or have any sympathy with the victims. This is bad for both **individuals** and for our whole society. Another worrying trend is that in these films the heroes are shown as people to be **admired**, **even though** they are very violent characters. **This leads impressionable** people to believe that they can **gain** respect and admiration by copying this **aggressive behaviour**, and so the levels of violence increase, especially in **major** cities throughout the world.

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- What is needed to combat these problems is **definite** action. The government should **regulate** the film industry **on the one hand**, and provide better **education on the other**. Producers must be prevented from showing **meaningless** violence as 'fun' in their films. **Instead**, films could **emphasise** the tragic **consequences** of violent acts and this would educate people, especially young people, to realise that violence is real.
 - **To conclude**, I think that viewing violence as **entertainment** may indeed cause serious social problems and that the only way to **improve** this **situation** is by **regulating** the industry and educating the public about the real human suffering that such violence brings.

Thank you

