

**Hamma Lakhdar University of El-Oued**

**Faculty of Arts and Languages**

**Department of English Language**



**Module:** Academic writing

**Module convenor:** Dr. Nour Toumi

**Level:** MA1

**Lecture three:** Language of Academic Writing

### **Lecture objectives**

This lecture is designed to raise your awareness towards the linguistic features/aspects that contribute to the formality, objectivity and precision of academic writing.

### **The do's and don'ts in academic writing**

➤ **Rule eight: Be precise and avoid vague words. If you have exact figures use the exact figures rather than using words such as “about”.**

- Example: The turning point was about 30 years ago.
- ✓ The turning point was in the late 1990s.

➤ **Rule nine: Use tentative language (hedging) and avoid absolute statements and words such as 'always'.**

Hedging expressions such as

Adverbs: plausibly, conceivably, probably, possibly, likely, presumably, perhaps, potentially, evidently, hypothetically, occasionally, usually, generally

Verbs: it appears that, it seems that, it is believed that, it is suggested that, suppose, presume, tend, assume

Nouns: possibility, probability, likelihood, tendency, assumption, claim, suggestion

Adjectives: possible, probable, plausible, conceivable, tentative, potential

Moodle verbs: can, could, might, may (it might be argued that ...), would

Other expressions like: most, majority of, the (vast) majority, a great proportion, several, some, a minority of, few, little

Example: Education reduces crime.

- Education may reduce crime.

**Rule ten: Use fixed academic phrases. Fixed phrases can be incorporated easily into your writing.**

- It can be said / It could be argued that...
- One major drawback of this approach is that .....
- One of the most significant current discussions in ...
- It is important to note that...
- There have been a number of.....
- The essay shows that.....
- It is widely agreed that.....
- One possible explanation is.....

**Rule 11: Use appropriate transition signals to make explicit (i.e. clear) links between ideas and to introduce new sections of an essay. Avoid numbering or bullet points (except in certain reports), and basic transitions to begin sentences (e.g. 'And', 'But', 'So').**

- 2. Causes of inflation
- ✓ Turing to the causes of inflation,...
- ✓ As far as inflation is concerned, .....
- And inflation is an important factor.
- ✓ In addition, inflation is as important factor.