

Developing your Academic Voice

One of the key parts of the academic voice is about expressing opinions. Often we want to do these without writing “I”. Instead you can:

Showing other opinions...

- *Author (Date) asserts that...*
- *They argue...*
- *She has no doubt that...*
- *Authors (Date) claim that...*
- *He is convinced that...*

You can disagree or agree with these opinions, or compare them to similar/different ones.

Giving your opinion openly

Sometimes in reports or reflective writing you might be able to say “I”.

- *To my mind...*
- *From my point of view...*
- *As far as I am concerned...*
- *It seems to me that...*
- *I believe...*

Using strong adjectives and weak verbs

Strong show opinions:

- *It is important that...*
- *This approach is essential...*
- *It is necessary to...*
- *Doing this is useful in...*
- *It is proper to...*
- *It is appropriate to ...*

Weak verbs show opinions:

- *It could be argued that...*
- *It appears as if...*
- *It could be assumed...*
- *This might lead us to believe...*
- *This may lead to the conclusion...*
- *It may be correct to say...*

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Giving recommendations and suggestions

There are many ways to give recommendations of understanding and research

- *It is worth examining...*
- *It can be observed here...*
- *This emphasises...*
- *It is important to point out...*
- *It might be noted here that...*

Adverbs to stress an opinion

Think about how you can change the tone by putting these at the start:

- *Arguably,*
- *Surprisingly,*
- *Obviously,*
- *Evidently,*
- *Curiously,*
- *Naturally,*

We also want to make sure we are using **formal language** throughout:

Active Voice	The subject of the sentence in charge of the action	research assistants designed the survey [S.V.O]
Passive voice	The subject is placed at the end or omitted completely	“the survey was designed by the research assistant” [O.V.(S)]
Avoid contractions	Write words out in full	don't = do not isn't = is not
Avoid colloquialisms and slang terms:	Informal speech used in conversation.	sort of = somewhat basically = fundamentally
Avoid cliches and some idioms	A phrase or opinion that is overused or unclear	at the end of the day = finally in the nick of time = at the critical moment
Avoid using redundant words	Using two or more words together that mean the same thing.	due to the fact that = because alternative choices = alternatives basic fundamentals = fundamentals

Check out our workshops on Rudiments of writing 1 and Paraphrasing to go further:

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