



## **Lesson Plan**

**Topic:** Exploring the Key Functions in Academic Writing

**Duration:** Two 45-minute class periods

### **Objective:**

Students will understand the key functions in academic writing and develop skills to effectively employ them in their own writing at the university level.

### **Materials:**

- Whiteboard/Blackboard
- Markers/Chalk
- Handouts with sample texts for each function
- Laptops/computers with internet access (optional)

### **Lesson Procedure:**

#### I. Introduction (5 minutes)

- Begin the lesson by introducing the topic of academic writing and its importance in a university setting.
- Discuss the purpose of academic writing and how it differs from other forms of writing.
- Engage students with a thought-provoking question or statement related to academic writing.

#### II. Defining Terms and Ideas (10 minutes)

- Explain that one key function in academic writing is defining terms and ideas clearly.



- Provide examples of how effective definition aids understanding in various disciplines.
- Distribute handouts with sample texts that require students to identify and define terms.

**Activity:** In pairs, students will choose two terms from their own major field of study and create simple definitions for each.

### III. Describing (15 minutes)

- Explain that effective description is necessary for conveying specific details in academic writing.
- Show examples of descriptive writing across disciplines (e.g., scientific observations, literary analyses).
- Discuss techniques such as sensory language, specific details, and vivid imagery to enhance descriptions.

**Activity:** Students will individually write a brief descriptive paragraph about a particular object or event, focusing on incorporating vivid details into their descriptions.

### IV. Comparing and Contrasting (15 minutes)

- Explain that comparing and contrasting is crucial for analyzing similarities and differences between subjects or ideas.
- Provide examples of compare/contrast essays from different fields of study.
- Discuss methods such as Venn diagrams, block structures, or point-by-point structures.



**Activity:** In groups of three, students will prepare and present a compare/contrast presentation on two assigned topics within their field of study.

#### V. Classifying (10 minutes)

- Explain that classification involves organizing information into categories based on specific criteria.
- Show examples of classifying data or concepts in different academic disciplines.
- Discuss the importance of clear criteria and logical organization in classification writing.

**Activity:** Students will individually choose a topic related to their field of study and generate two or more categories with specific criteria for classifying the information.

#### VI. Explaining Causes and Effects (20 minutes)

- Explain that explaining causes and effects helps readers understand the relationship between events, phenomena, or ideas.
- Provide examples of cause-and-effect essays or paragraphs from different disciplines.
- Discuss various ways to structure cause-and-effect writing, such as chronological order, categorical order, or deductive reasoning.

**Activity:** In pairs, students will brainstorm three causes and three effects related to a given event or topic within their field of study and write a short paragraph explaining their chosen causes/effects.



## VII. Developing an Argument at University Level (20 minutes)

- Explain that developing a strong argument at the university level involves presenting evidence, analyzing perspectives, and addressing counterarguments.
- Provide examples of persuasive essays from different academic disciplines.
- Discuss techniques such as incorporating credible sources, recognizing bias, and using logical reasoning.

**Activity:** Students will individually choose a controversial topic within their field of study. They will outline an argumentative essay by stating their thesis statement, providing supporting evidence, summarizing counterarguments, and proposing rebuttals.

### **Differentiation Activities:**

- For advanced students: Assign additional readings on academic writing to deepen their understanding and encourage critical analysis in class discussions.
- For struggling students: Provide guided handouts for each function with sentence stems or prompts to support them in organizing their thoughts more effectively.

### **Extension Activities:**

- Independent Research Project: Allow students to choose one function and write a research paper exploring its application and significance in their field of study.
- Peer Review Workshop: Organize a peer review session where students exchange their written assignments and provide constructive feedback on how effectively each function was employed.

### **Closure (5 minutes):**

- Summarize the key functions of academic writing covered in the lesson.



- Emphasize the importance of mastering these functions for success in university-level writing.

**Note:** Remember to adapt the timing, activities, and differentiation techniques based on your class size, proficiency level, and available resources.