Style and Voice



Dr Anna Podorova, Ms Julia Ghazarian, Dr Amber McLeod Faculty of Education, Updated 16 February 2016

Revisit

Every discipline at a university requires students to use a discipline-specific style and voice.

Style and voice are closely linked to ways of thinking and acting in each discipline (science, medicine, education and so on). Although there are generic rules about formal academic style of writing or expressing yourself using a non-biased tone, academics and professionals in different disciplines have various approaches to style and voice. These approaches and rules often become evident if you pay attention to how authors express themselves in readings; your lecturers and tutors also demonstrate their style and voice in class and on-line discussions. Check your faculty resources for more discipline-specific information on style and voice.

The skill of integrating source material and maintaining your voice amongst the many voices of authors used to support your work develops over time. The distinction between your voice and others' voices is part of academic integrity so your reader and listener must always know when your are using other people's ideas to support arguments in your assignments and exam papers.

Quick tips

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When you read for your assignments and exams, pay attention to the style and authors' voices in your particular discipline. To develop your voice, take notes of your own ideas while reading for your assignments and exams. Be systematic from start – record and save what you have read to ensure the distinction between your voice and others' ideas in your assignments is clear.

Learn more

Useful links on style and voice

<u>Library guides by subject, Monash</u> <u>University</u>

<u>Discipline-specific writing guides,</u> <u>Monash University</u>

<u>Subject Specific Writing, Purdue</u> <u>Online Learning lab</u> (scroll down to the Subject Specific Writing section) Face-to-face support Who can help with academic literacy at Monash?

Library programs, drop-ins and specialist advice

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