



Objective Language

Writing Centre Learning Guide

After a thorough examination of the literature, an academic writer comes to a careful judgment. The convention of 'objective' writing is that arguments use impartial language, which is not personal, judgmental, or emotive. Objective language, therefore, is considered fair and accurate. It avoids exaggeration and bias, and shows respect for the views of others.

Introduction

Everyday language is 'subjective'. It is used to express opinions based on personal values, beliefs or preferences rather than evidence. Opinions tend to be based on subjective judgment rather than on information that can be verified. An opinion is a belief that someone holds without complete proof that it is correct, and hence opinions are often disputed.

The language of academic writing is different from the language you would use when having a chat with friends. Academic writing is 'objective'. Although you may have strong feelings about an assignment topic, your writing should provide and reference the evidence you have used to write your paper.

At university, you are expected to research a topic using information found in relevant publications, reference books, and textbooks. In other words, you will need to cite respected scholars/authorities who are considered credible in the academic community and especially in your discipline.

The information you find for use in assignments should be factual. Facts are objective, concrete

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Consider the following examples:

I got informed consent in accordance with the procedures specified for research...

Sydney represents an incredibly vivacious school market...

Example 2 - Objective paragraph

There are a number of values that are shared by the Australian community and which are relevant to the issue of compulsory childhood immunisation. The protection of the health and well-being of Australian children should be a shared response (Australian Government, 2007). Children can be seen as potentially vulnerable individuals who do not have the capacity to protect and promote their own healthcare, and it is therefore the responsibility of the state and the Australian community at large to behave in ways that do not endanger their lives. It can be argued that a mandatory childhood immunisation policy would be consistent with the view shared by many Australians, that is, children's healthcare needs should be considered a priority (Anton et al., 2005, p.24). If childhood immunity is not promoted across Australia, then children may become at risk of contracting a variety of vaccine-preventable diseases leading to possible death (Gray & Davies, 2004, p.201). Enforcing timely childhood immunisation programs, therefore, would be highly beneficial for protecting the youth of this nation.

clear topic sentence