

Expressing Your Voice in Academic Writing

Common Phrases and Vocabulary for Stating Opinions

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The Role of Your Voice

In academic writing, it is not enough to simply present facts and figures. You must also interpret these facts and present your own informed opinion or stance. This is your academic voice.

This presentation will cover key phrases and vocabulary to help you:

- Introduce your arguments clearly.
- Express different degrees of certainty.
- Agree or disagree with other scholars.

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Stating Your Claim

These phrases are useful for introducing your main argument or thesis statement.

- **This paper argues that** universal basic income could be a viable solution to poverty.
- **In this essay, I will contend that** remote work is beneficial for both employees and employers.
- **The central argument of this paper is that** early childhood education has a long-lasting impact on an individual's life.
- **My position is that** renewable energy sources should be subsidized to a greater extent.

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Expressing a Strong Stance

When you are confident in your position, you can use strong and assertive language.

- **It is clear that** regular exercise has numerous health benefits.
- **There is no doubt that** the internet has revolutionized communication.
- **The evidence overwhelmingly suggests that** smoking is detrimental to one's health.
- **It is undeniable that** access to clean water is a fundamental human right.

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Expressing a Tentative Stance (Hedging)

In academic writing, it is often wise to be cautious and avoid making absolute claims. This is called "hedging."

- **It seems that** there is a correlation between economic growth and social welfare.
- **It could be argued that** technology has made people more isolated.
- **This suggests that** further research is needed to confirm the findings.
- **One possible interpretation is that** the author is critiquing modern society.

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Agreeing with a Source

When you agree with another author's point, you can use these phrases to build on their work.

- **As Smith (2020) has noted**, globalization has both positive and negative consequences.
- **Jones's (2018) findings support the argument that** urban green spaces improve residents' well-being.
- **I agree with Johnson's (2019) assertion that** historical context is crucial for understanding literature.

Disagreeing with a Source

Politely disagreeing with a source is a key academic skill.

- **While Smith (2020) argues that** economic sanctions are effective, **I contend that** they often harm civilians more than governments.
- **Jones's (2018) argument is not entirely convincing because** it overlooks key demographic factors.
- **This paper offers a different perspective on** the causes of the industrial revolution.
- **I challenge the view that** technology is a panacea for all educational problems.

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Expressing Opinions in IELTS Writing

In IELTS Writing Task 2, you often need to give your opinion.

- In my opinion, governments should invest more in public transportation.
- I believe that individuals have a responsibility to protect the environment.
- From my perspective, the benefits of tourism outweigh the drawbacks.
- I am of the opinion that university education should be free for everyone.
- I firmly believe that censorship in the media is unjustifiable.

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Expressing Opinions in TOEFL Writing

In the TOEFL Independent Writing task, you need to state and support your opinion.

- In my view, it is better for children to grow up in the countryside than in a big city.
- I agree with the idea that students should be required to wear uniforms to school.
- I disagree with the statement that technology has made our lives more complicated.
- From my point of view, success is the result of hard work, not luck.
- It is my belief that parents are the best teachers.

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Exercise 1

Read the following paragraph:

Paragraph

The rise of the "gig economy" has been praised by some for its flexibility and entrepreneurial opportunities. Workers can choose their own hours and be their own bosses. However, critics point to the lack of job security, benefits, and the potential for exploitation. Many gig economy workers struggle with unpredictable income and a lack of a social safety net.

Task: Write one sentence that expresses your opinion on the gig economy, using a phrase from this presentation.

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Exercise 2

Read the following paragraph:

Paragraph

Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly advancing in its ability to generate creative content, including art, music, and even writing. Some artists and writers fear that AI will devalue human creativity and lead to job losses. Others see AI as a powerful new tool that can augment human creativity and open up new artistic possibilities.

Task: Write one sentence that agrees or disagrees with the idea that AI is a threat to human creativity. Use a phrase from this presentation.

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