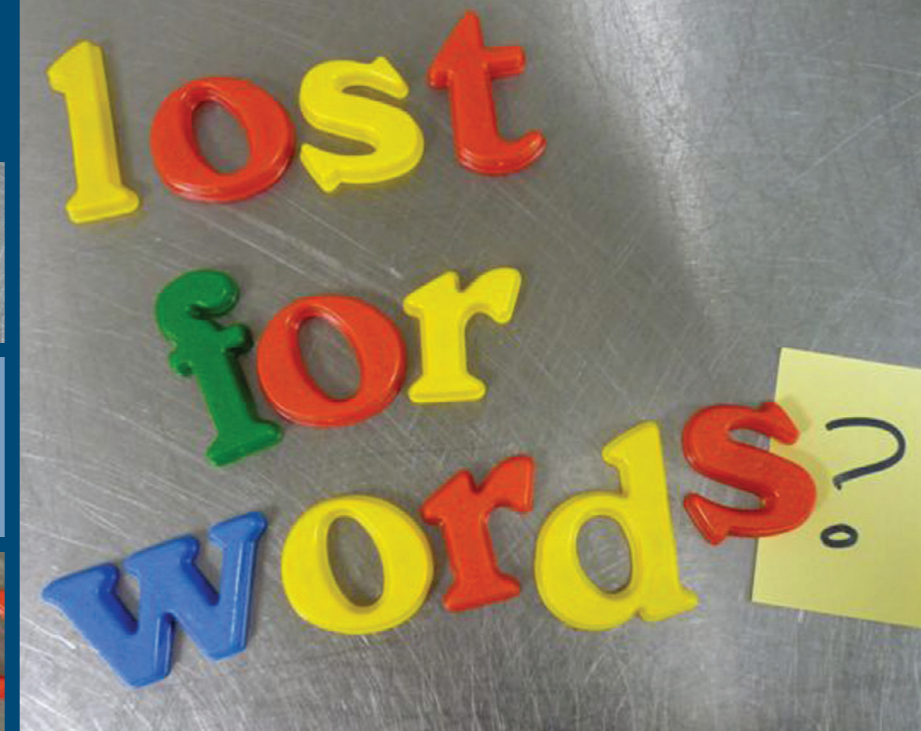
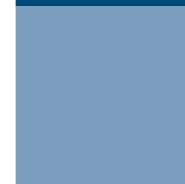


10 Tips for Academic Writing

1. Start early – There are only so many books in the short loan section.
2. Plan it. Think about what you're trying to say first then do your research.
3. If you get writer's block, it is probably because you are not sure where your argument is going. Look back at your plan and imagine you are explaining your ideas to a friend, telling them what comes next.
4. Remember, the assignment title probably isn't 'Write down everything you know about the subject', so be selective about what information you include.
5. Write only one idea per paragraph.
6. Note down the bibliographic information on your references as you do your research. It will save a lot of time later.
7. All writing is improved by drafting. Write. Take a break. Re-read and improve.
8. Find out what the marking criteria are and stick to them. If the introduction is only worth 10% of the overall mark then this should be reflected in both the time spent writing it and the number of words you use up from the word count.
9. Don't stop reading/researching once you've started writing – you may need to do more targeted research to fill in any gaps as you go along, just don't use this as an excuse never to start writing.
10. Reading your work aloud when proofreading can help you pick up if your sentences are too long and complex. If you find you are reading a lot without pausing, you probably need to break up your work into shorter sentences.



The Academic Writing Fridge Magnet

This pack was produced by Rebecca Bell and Ed Foster from Nottingham Trent University. Many of the writing tips were contributed by members of the Learnhigher CETL. Thanks very much to everyone who helped.

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The Academic Writing Fridge Magnet

The Academic Writing Fridge Magnet is a learning resource to help you with your writing. It contains four sets of useful words to help you enhance your assignments:

- **Sequencing words** – help you to introduce paragraphs, structure points and link ideas together
- **Contrasting words** – are useful to help bring together differing perspectives and warns the reader to expect an opposing argument
- **Inserting references** – these words enable you to insert other writers' arguments, theories, ideas and evidence
- **Summing up and concluding words** – are useful to conclude your written work or even summarise sections within it

To use the fridge magnet, take it out of the pack and stick it to your fridge (obviously). Have a look at the words from time-to- time and think about how you can use them.

When you're actually writing your assignments, use the fridge magnet to give you alternative words to add variety and fluency to your writing.

Take a look at the useful websites list underneath the magnet and turn to the back page for our top ten academic writing tips.

Websites to help with your academic writing

<http://www.learnhigher.ac.uk>

This website is full of excellent student resources to help you develop all aspects of your studies.

<http://unilearning.uow.edu.au>

This student-friendly website offers help and advice on academic writing, including a number of activities for you to try.

<http://www.owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>

This site examines the writing process looking at issues such as how to get started.

<http://elearn.ntu.ac.uk/resources/studyskillsguides.htm>

A link to the online study skills guides at Nottingham Trent University (NTU students only).

<http://www.kent.ac.uk/uelt/ask>

This is a great time management resource from the University of Kent. Simply enter your assignment deadlines and it will create a plan to help you structure your time accordingly.

Stick me to the fridge for wordy goodness!