CM107 Unit 5 | Reading and Practice

I. Academic Writing

Activity: Defining Academic Writing
http://extmedia.kaplan.edu/genEd/Media/CM107/CM107_1405C/CM107_Defining_Academic_Writing_Practice_Activity/quiz.html

II. Required Reading

KUWC Writing Modes
https://kucampus.kaplan.edu/MyStudies/AcademicSupportCenter/WritingCenter/WritingReferenceLibrary/WritingTypesAndTools/WritingModesInBrief.aspx

KUWC information on Informative Essay Writing
https://kucampus.kaplan.edu/MyStudies/AcademicSupportCenter/WritingCenter/WritingReferenceLibrary/WritingTypesAndTools/WritingAnInformativeEssay.aspx

KUWC Writing to Compare and Contrast
https://kucampus.kaplan.edu/MyStudies/AcademicSupportCenter/WritingCenter/WritingReferenceLibrary/WritingTypesAndTools/ComparingAndContrasting.aspx

KUWC Writing to Explain a Process
https://kucampus.kaplan.edu/MyStudies/AcademicSupportCenter/WritingCenter/WritingReferenceLibrary/WritingTypesAndTools/ExplainingAProcess.aspx

III. Recommended Reading

The following Writing Center documents are recommended reading, to familiarize you with other types of academic documents:

KUWC Writing a Persuasive Essay
https://kucampus.kaplan.edu/MyStudies/AcademicSupportCenter/WritingCenter/WritingReferenceLibrary/WritingTypesAndTools/WritingAPersuasiveEssay.aspx

KUWC Writing a Research Paper
https://kucampus.kaplan.edu/MyStudies/AcademicSupportCenter/WritingCenter/WritingReferenceLibrary/WritingTypesAndTools/WritingAResearchPaper.aspx

KUWC Writing a Critical Essay
https://kucampus.kaplan.edu/MyStudies/AcademicSupportCenter/WritingCenter/WritingReferenceLibrary/WritingTypesAndTools/WritingACriticalEssay.aspx
IV. Writing Formal Essays

Activity: Analyze Your Experience with Writing Formal Essays
http://extmedia.kaplan.edu/genEd/Media/CM107/CM107_1405C/CM107_Analyze_Your_Experience_with_Writing_Formal_Essays/quiz.html

V. The Formal Language of Academic Writing

Have you ever been to a party or work event and felt uncomfortable because everyone else was dressed more formally, while you were wearing jeans and a t-shirt, for example? We dress according to the situation, so if you attend a formal wedding ceremony, you are expected to respect the formality of the situation by wearing clothes that are appropriate. On the other hand, would you wear a tuxedo or formal gown to a picnic in the park or to go fishing? Of course not, and the same thing applies to language used when we write. One thing you may have noticed so far is that academic writing does indeed tend to be written in a more formal language than personal documents or even documents written for work. The following KU Writing Center document can help you to understand what this formal language is and how to adjust your word choice, sentence structure, and vocabulary to fit the situation. Be careful, though. Writing an academic essay should not mean that your writing is stilted, awkward, and unnecessarily complicated just to impress the audience. Trying too hard to use formal language can lead to poor writing, just as using inappropriately informal language in a formal research essay.

KUWC: Informal vs. Formal Writing
https://kucampus.kaplan.edu/MyStudies/AcademicSupportCenter/WritingCenter/WritingReferenceLibrary/WritingMechanics/FormalVsInformalWriting.aspx

Activity: Analyze Language
http://extmedia.kaplan.edu/genEd/Media/CM107/CM107_1405C/CM107_Analyze_Language/quiz.html

VI. The Writing Process

Now that you have learned more about what academic writing is and its challenges, it's time to start work on your academic document. You will complete and submit a draft of your Academic Essay by the end of Unit 6 and then a revised Academic Essay with sources by the end of Unit 8, but for now, you will want to first preview that assignment and then learn about and apply the initial steps of the Writing Process by completing a brainstorming exercise.

Activity: Preview the Unit 8 Academic Essay Assignment

Unit 8 Assignment: Apply what you have learned about formal language and academic writing to write your own article that could potentially be published at the reputable internet website you used to locate the article you used for the Assignment you wrote for Units 4 and 6.
Select an article from the website that identifies a specific controversy or change relevant to your field of study. Write a 2 to 2 and 1/2 page academic essay that establishes your own thesis about that controversy or change. You can, for example, analyze the effects of this change, offer a solution to the controversy or problem, or analyze the implications of the controversy.

Support and develop your ideas and claims by incorporating relevant paraphrased and quoted information from 2–3 additional relevant and reliable secondary sources from either the KU Library or published on the web. Give appropriate credit to all paraphrased and quoted source information by including in-text citations, signal phrases, and a References page in your article. Utilize 6th edition APA formatting for your citations and references.

VII. Writing an Academic Essay
Writing an academic essay can be challenging. Even if you know a lot about the topic, you may need to both learn more about the subject and use research information to support your ideas and claims. The topics themselves may be complex and oftentimes, because of the complexity of the issue, your documents may be longer and require more planning and strategies to keep the information organized and focused.

Think back to the essay that you read in the previous activity, Innovative Strategies of Effective Educators. It is an organized, effectively developed essay that incorporates sources well. However, that is the final product, the end version of a paper that a writer worked on for some time, and in fact, the first draft of that paper may very well have been disorganized, unfocused, confusing at times even. Many writers get frustrated when they first begin writing because they expect good writing to always happen the first time they draft, but this rarely occurs. Most writing starts out messy and needs to be revised and edited many times before the paper is ready to be presented to others in the shape that the Innovative Strategies of Effective Educators is in. Remember this as you write, and you will be less likely to encounter frustration with your writing. That writer worked through the writing process, and if you do that, you too can produce effective documents that convey meaning clearly and effectively!

What helps most is to apply the Writing Process. While you may be aware of the Writing Process itself and have practiced this skill in previous units of the course, review the following information on this tried and true phases of the writing process that composition experts recommend that writers take advantage of and that may be particularly necessary for success when writing academic essays.

Activity: Review Writing Process Document
Please review the following Writing Center document on the Writing Process:

KUWC Writing Process

Activity: Analyze Your Writing Process
VIII. Getting Started on Your Academic Document

Begin by reading the following Writing Center information that focuses on the importance of what you do before you begin to actually write a document:

**Prewriting: From Mess to Potential Masterpiece:**
http://lgdata.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/docs/1620/959713/Prewriting_KUWC2013cr.pdf

**From Topic to Research Question to Thesis:** http://lgdata.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/docs/1620/959640/FromTopicToResearchQuestionToThesis_KUWC2013cr.pdf

**Writing an Outline:**

**Activity: Prewriting: From Mess to Potential Masterpiece**

Now that you have learned what an Academic Essay is and have reviewed and practiced the early stages of the Writing Process, complete the Unit 5 Quiz to earn your Activities credit. Then begin your work in the Unit 5 Discussion Board.