

ACADEMIC STYLE

TEN STYLE RULES FOR ACADEMIC ENGLISH

1

USE FORMAL VOCABULARY

- ✓ Major urban centres, such as London and Beijing...
- ✗ Major urban centres, like London and Beijing...
- ✓ There are a significant number of people who believe...
- ✗ There are lots of people who believe...

2

USE FORMAL VERBS

- ✓ increase, decrease, discuss, improve, deteriorate, continue, raise
- ✗ go up, go down, talk about, get better, get worse, go on, bring up

3

USE THE FULL FORM OF VERBS

- ✓ do not, cannot, will not, did not
- ✗ don't, can't, won't, didn't

4

USE FORMAL GRAMMAR STRUCTURES

- ✓ The increasing pollution of the environment is a global concern.
- ✗ The environment is increasingly polluted. This is a global concern.

5

USE STATEMENTS

- ✓ There were four main reasons for the decline.
- ✗ What were the reasons for the decline?

6

USE IMPERSONAL LANGUAGE

- ✓ There are three main problems.
- ✗ I can think of three main problems.
- ✓ In the experiment, the water was heated...
- ✗ In the experiment, I heated the water...

7

BE PRECISE

- ✓ There are three main reasons for this.
- ✗ There are several things which led to this.

8

CITE YOUR SOURCES

- ✓ Russell (2001) states that over 50% of the population are unaware of the problem.
- ✗ Most people are unaware of the problem.

9

USE TENTATIVE LANGUAGE

- ✓ This may be caused by the effects of global warming.
- ✗ This is caused by the effects of global warming.

10

USE APPROPRIATE TRANSITIONS

- ✓ In addition, inflation is an important factor.
- ✗ And inflation is an important factor.

