

Fundamentals of academic writing

We often see “technical writing” and “academic writing”, they are similar in some contexts but different in some other contexts. The Table below compares these two types of writings.

Technical Writing	Academic writing
1	2
Identify the audience	Identify the audience
Being objective – avoid biased language and no personal pre-conception	3
Follow specific formats	Follow specific formats

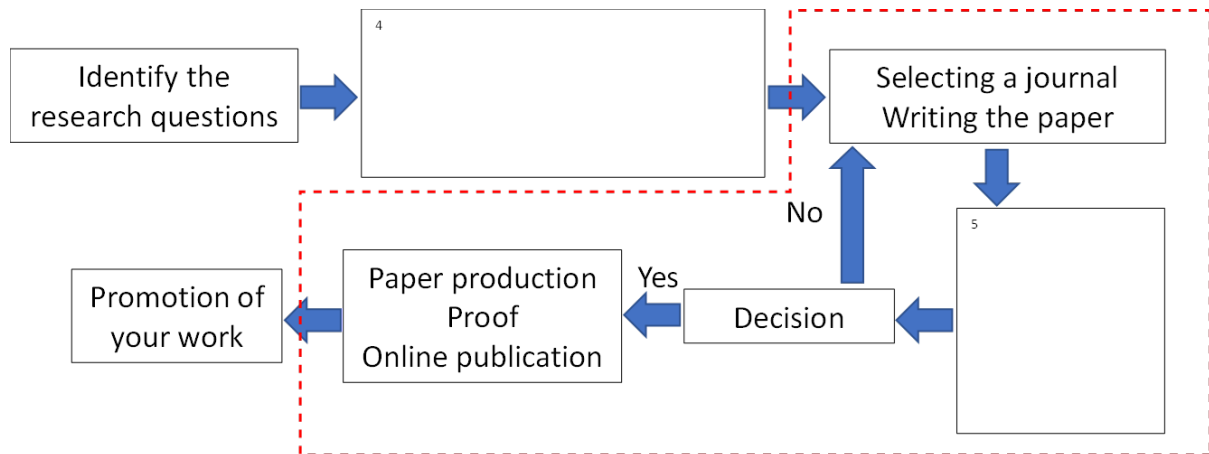
(note that I deliberately alter the column with the powerpoint so you should read and fill in the blanks carefully)

There are also several types of work that would either use technical writing or academic writing, they are:

Type of work	Comments:
Journal articles	Always use academic writing as the authors need to provide fact-based arguments.
Research report	(write you own comments here)
Technical reports	(write you own comments here)
Conference papers	(write you own comments here)
Academic assignment	(write you own comments here)
Books	Could be both, if you are writing a cookbook then it will be more like technical report. You describe the procedure and not so much personal argument (but can be personal experience). If you are writing an academic monograph, then it will be academic writing.

Answer:
 1. Communicate technical information
 2. Communicate fact-based argument
 3. Being objective – avoid biased language and no personal pre-conception

The life cycle of research activities starts from identifying the research questions or knowledge gaps, followed by a series of other activities. The red dashed box below shows the process of publishing a journal paper, it involves different parties, such as authors, editors, publishers, and reviewers. Finish a research project and submit a research report is not the end of the research, it is just a start. Academics gain knowledge from research so they should disseminate the knowledge they have discovered from the research activities. Try to fill in the blanks (4 and 5) below.



When you write a journal paper, there are two essential messages you need to get across, or your manuscript will be rejected. These messages are:

- What are the contributions of your work?

6 _____

7 _____

- Why are these contributions important?

8 _____

Answer:
 4. Determine the methodology, Execution, Data analysis, Identify your main findings
 5. Submission, Desk review, Peer review, Revision, Re-review
 6. Identify the intellectual challenge
 7. How your work helps to fill the knowledge gap
 8. How your work impacts your field and beyond?