

**Academic writing course first lesson  
Needs Analysis**

*Interview each other in pairs, making notes about your partner in this table.*

Name:		
<b>Job</b>		
Present	Past	Future
<b>Studies</b>		
Present	Past	Future
<b>Studies of and use of English</b>		
Present	Past	Future
<b>Academic writing and reading (in English and other languages)</b>		
Present	Past	Future
<b>Other writing in English</b>		
Present	Past	Future
Views on academic writing in English (ways of learning, difficulties, differences, etc)		

*What is “academic writing”?*

*Work together to write a paragraph defining academic writing. Look on the next page for ideas of what you could write if you need to.*

**Possible ideas for what to put in the paragraph**

Why a definition is important/ interesting/ necessary/ difficult etc.

Examples

Contrasts with non-academic writing

*Having to define your terms is a fairly common thing to do in academic writing. Do you think you produced a good academic English paragraph? How could you improve it (given time and relevant resources)?*

*What is good academic writing? What do you need in order to produce good academic writing?*

*Draw a circle around the words below and then brainstorm a mind map on the topic.*

producing good academic writing

*Look on the next page if you need suggestions for what to put on the mind map.*

**Possible suggestions for the mind map**

- Bibliography
- Culture
- Editing
- Grammar
- Organisation
- Paragraphs
- Phrases
- Planning
- Process
- Punctuation
- Quotes
- References/ Citations
- Sentences
- Spelling
- Supporting arguments
- Title
- Topic
- Vocabulary

*Compare your mind map with another group and then discuss the questions below.*

**Discussion**

- Which of the things on your mind map are most difficult and most important? How could you improve your ability to do those things?
- How can you use brainstorming and mind maps in academic writing? What other ways of coming up with ideas are there?
- Do you think yours is a good example of a mind map? What could be improved about it?
- Your homework will be to write a 300-word essay on the topic of academic writing. How useful could the mind map and definition paragraph you created today be?
- What else will you need to do before you start writing that essay?

**Homework**

Write a 300-word essay on the topic of academic writing, using the things you brainstormed and discussed today to help.