

	Academic	Non-academic
Audience	Academics	The general public or friends and family
Content	Serious thought	Of general interest or personal
Style	Complex sentences with considerable variety in construction	Mostly simple sentences joined by conjunctions such as “and” or “but”
	Formal language is expected and colloquial expressions are not acceptable	Colloquial words or expressions are acceptable (“stuff” “sort of” or “thing”)
Structure	Clear and well-planned, logical flow	Less likely to be as clear and organized
Grammar	Likely to be error free	Freer use of grammar. Not always complete sentences
Vocabulary	Subject-specific terms and academic language used accurately	Everyday vocabulary. Use of short forms, idioms and slang to some extent

Chart adapted from Hamp-Lyons and Heasley (2006).