

# A SCHOLARLY TONE

A scholarly tone makes a student's work credible and persuasive. By writing more formally and neutrally, a writer reflects published academic work and meets the audience's expectations.

"Establishing a tone that conveys the essential points of your study in an interesting manner will engage readers and communicate your ideas more effectively" (APA p. 65).

## HOW TO WRITE SCHOLARLY

1. **Use 3<sup>rd</sup> person only** - 1st or 2nd person makes your writing appear conversational and/or biased instead of research based. **The following pronouns are considered 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> person: I, We, You, Your, Us, Our, etc.**
2. **Avoid Gender Bias** – Academia encourages students to respect others' race, ethnicity, and gender. APA style requires students to avoid gender bias by eliminating a scholar's first name and any unnecessary labels to describe them.
3. **Use Formal Wording** – Eliminate all slang and text abbreviations. Proper wording increases your credibility as a scholar.
4. **Write Clearly** - While you will often write about complex academic subjects, maximize clarity for your audience by eliminating complicated sentence structure and wordiness.
5. **Write Actively** -Primarily use active voice in your papers to make them clear. Please see the "Writing in the Active Voice" handout for more information.

## SCHOLARLY EXAMPLES

- X [Joseph Williams supposes that you must "motivate" your readers, be able to write "clearly," and soundly support your claims (p.3).]
- ✓ [Williams believes that writers must "motivate" their readers, write "clearly," and soundly support their claims (p.3).]
- X [Female Director Greta Gerwig is praised for her relatable and quirky characters in *Lady Bird*.]
- ✓ [Director G. Gerwig receives praise for the relatable and quirky characters in *Lady Bird*.]