Using Academic Writer in Your Course

This handout provides suggestions to help you incorporate Academic Writer content into your courses.

Academic Writer content can be used on its own or to reinforce or supplement existing course instruction. For more ideas about how you can use Academic Writer in your courses, attend or view our Academic Writer for Faculty and Instructors webinar.

Teach the Foundations of Scholarly Research and Writing

The Learning Center contains in-depth tutorials on topics related to academic research and writing such as avoiding plagiarism, finding reliable resources, and reducing bias in language. Interactive knowledge checks (presented as multiple choice, select all that apply, matching, and drag-and-drop activities) are located at key points in the content so that students can check their own learning. Tutorials can provide students with background information before classroom discussions, activities, or assignments.

You may also want to review the quick guides, which are shorter than tutorials and address specific APA Style® guidelines.

Tutorials, quick guides, and samples can be embedded in your learning management system (LMS; e.g. Blackboard, Brightspace, Canvas, Moodle) course. Your LMS course settings provide options for assigning, tracking, and scaffolding quick guides and tutorials. (Ask your campus LMS admin or instructional designers for more details.)
Teach Reference Components in New Ways

Academic Writer includes 200 sample references and over 100 reference forms, which can be used as part of in-class exercises to help students learn the elements of a reference.

In the Reference Center, select Add References. Select Create and choose a reference type. The resulting reference form walks a user through each element of the reference (answering who, when, what, and how). The forms also provide guidance, e.g., to use only initials for authors’ first and middle names. Use the question mark (?) icon next to each element of the reference for additional assistance.

You can also use the Collapse all link in the upper right corner to collapse the form so that you can look at components one by one.
Working Together
Students can collaborate on group assignments, and faculty and instructors can provide feedback and assistance to students who need it. Collaborators and reviewers can be added to a paper by the paper owner using the email address associated with the Academic Writer account of their collaborators.

Group work can be started by having a student group leader start a paper and add group members as collaborators who can create their own sections of the assignment. Alternatively, if groups need more structure, you can start papers and assign specific sections to student group members. This also allows instructors to more closely monitor progress.

If students need feedback or assistance, they can add you as a reviewer to a paper in Academic Writer. As a reviewer, you can read and comment on the paper but cannot add or edit any text. For collaborative papers written by a group, a reviewer can also be added; the reviewer can see who is working on each section and who added each reference.

Collaborators and reviewers can be added in the Collaborate tab of the paper editor.

Understand What Students Still Need to Learn
Students need to understand the foundations of scholarly research, writing, and APA Style. Academic Writer has content and tools to assist: Tutorials and quick guides in the Learning Center provide an introduction and foundation to researching and writing in APA Style. Writing Center tools help format in-text citations in the body of a paper, but students remain responsible for recognizing that a citation is necessary, choose an appropriate reference, and provide context.

Contact Us
APA Customer Engagement provides training and support for Academic Writer and other products from APA Publishing.

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