

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.

"Being able to communicate ideas clearly and succinctly is a recipe for success for all writers...Effective scholarly writing balances continuity and flow with conciseness and clarity" (APA, 2020, p. 111).

HOW TO WRITE SCHOLARLY

1. **Primarily use 3rd person** – 1st or 2nd person makes writing appear conversational and/or biased instead of research based. **1st or 2nd person pronouns = I, We, Us, Our(s), You, Your(s)**
Use 1st or 2nd person intentionally to meet your professor's guidelines or in specific cases such as describing your own research in the APA style (APA, 2020, p. 120).
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** – When writing 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 (2017) supposes that you must "motivate" your readers, be able to write "clearly," and soundly support your claims (p. 3).]
- ✓ [Williams (2017) 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*.]