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| **Informal vs Formal Writing** |
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| **Setting:** | Seminar |
| **Level:** | Levels 3-4 |
| **Activity duration:** | 25 minutes  |
| **Guidance:** | This session introduces students to the different styles of writing and highlights the differences in tone, style and language required for academic writing. |
| **Outcomes:** * To identify the difference between writing styles
* To build students’ awareness of style, tone and language to be adopted in academic writing
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| **Pre-task preparation:** * Source a range of short text from a magazine, a novel, a newspaper, or journal article.
* Have a range of students writing (anonymised) from a range of grades with two examples of excellent academic writing within your discipline.
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**Steps to implement the activity:** 1. Open your session by asking your students to give examples of informal, colloquial language. This will also act as an effective icebreaker.

 1. Follow this up by asking your students to suggest how this differs from the sort of language you might encounter at university, for example, in lecture notes, handouts or in published academic writing such as textbooks, research papers and journal articles.
2. Once you have done this, start to outline some of the phrases, terms and words that are typical within your discipline (so that you have moved from general to more applied examples).
3. Divide students into small groups or pairs. Hand out a sample of the texts you have prepared to each pair/group.
4. Ask each pair/group to read and discuss the example texts and to identify what they consider to be the differences between the range of examples.
5. The students can then take their examples and complete Task 1 of the Worksheet.
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