

ASPIRE Model for Academic Writing



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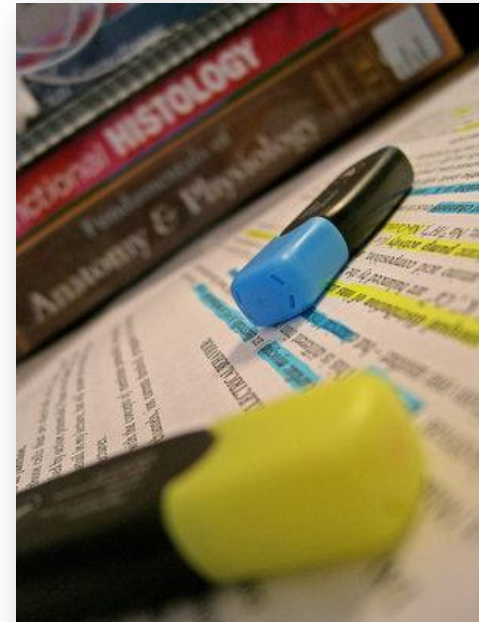
ASPIRE model



- Writing academic essays can be rather difficult as it requires some necessary “skills” in ensuring a piece of work remains “academic”.
- I would like to share a simple model (or guide) that would help you in writing academically.
- Of course, this is not “the” model that would transform you into a proficient academic writer overnight.

ASPIRE model

- **ASPIRE for academic writing** (Chuah, 2010)
 - Academic Voice
 - Scholarly Citations
 - Precise Description
 - In-depth Elaborations
 - Reduce clichés/redundancies
 - Effective Structure



ASPIRE model

- **Academic Voice**
 - **Use academic language**
 - Formal
 - Use specific terms/technical terms when necessary
 - No contraction = Don't, Won't
 - Objective perspective (not personal)
 - Proper spelling (eg: because instead of "coz")

ASPIRE model

- **Scholarly Citations**
 - Use scholarly citations to support your elaborations.
 - Get from reliable sources – journals, books, reports.
 - Not merely citing resources from unreliable online webpages.

ASPIRE model

■ Precise Descriptions

- Provide precise descriptions/elaborations based on facts.
- Avoid giving vague descriptions and personal opinions. Unless the type of writing is opinion-based.
- When opinion is needed, signal to the reader that it is an opinion by using hedgings like *"In the author's opinion, the situation may not be applicable to Malaysians."*)

ASPIRE model

- In-depth Elaborations
 - Elaborate your points based on the citations and not merely listing them out.
 - Learn to integrate the points.
 - Avoid explaining the same thing multiple times.
 - Overuse of **“This means that...”**

Example:

Adams (2010) mentions that Malaysians love to use Facebook during peak hours. **This means that many Malaysians are using Facebook when everyone else is busy.** *(This is not extending from the earlier sentence/point)*

ASPIRE model

- **Reduce clichés/redundancies**
 - Avoid using too many clichés or redundancies.
 - **Clichés - Overused Words/Phrases**

E.g.

 - Nowadays
 - Last but not the least
 - all walks of life
 - in today's society
 - **Redundancies**
 - At the **present moment in time**
 - By **definition**, this **means** that the word **implies**

ASPIRE model

- **Effective Structure**
 - **Structure is very important – it helps your reader to focus and present your points/arguments clearly.**
 - **Standard Academic Structure**
 - **Introduction = Thesis statement/statement of issue**
 - **Body = Main ideas/arguments to discuss/explain the issue**
 - **Conclusion = Summary of points/recommendation**
 - **May change according to genres/types of writing**