

Academic integrity and referencing

Explain quote

Make it clear why you are using this quote here. You need to explain how it supports the point you are making in this paragraph.

For more advice, see this guide from Study Advice: <http://libguides.reading.ac.uk/citing-references/quotesandparaphrases>

Unnecessary direct quote

Your assignment should be mostly written in your own words. Use direct quotes only when there is a specific reason to use the original words (for example, if you want to analyse the text you are quoting) and keep the quote as brief as possible. Paraphrasing is often a better way to show your understanding.

For more advice, see this guide from Study Advice: <http://libguides.reading.ac.uk/citing-references/quotesandparaphrases>

Evidence needed

Provide evidence to support the claim you are making here. Your arguments should be based on appropriate academic evidence from your reading or primary research and not on assumptions.

For more advice, see this short video on targeted reading and use of evidence from Study Advice: <http://www.screencast.com/t/T1v0QZeS>

Incorrect referencing

You have cited this source incorrectly. You may have missed important details or not followed the correct formatting. For guidance on referencing, see your course handbook on Blackboard and this guide from Study Advice: <http://libguides.reading.ac.uk/citing-references>

Missing reference

A reference is missing here. Every time you use an idea which you got from your reading, you must include a reference to where you found the material.

For more advice, see this guide from Study Advice: <http://libguides.reading.ac.uk/citing-references>

Inappropriate source

This is not an appropriate source for an academic piece of work. Evaluate your sources whether they're books, journals, websites or other texts, and consider whether they are suitable to support the point that you are making.

For more advice, see this guide from the Library: <https://www.reading.ac.uk/lib-literature-searching.aspx>

Well-referenced

This section is well-referenced: you have selected appropriate academic sources for your work, you have cited them correctly, and they support the point you are making here effectively.

Critical analysis

Explain in more detail

You have started to make an interesting point here, but you need to explain it a bit more. Provide more detail, and link it back to the key points of your assignment.

For more advice, see this guide from Study Advice: <http://libguides.reading.ac.uk/essays/writing>

Good critical thinking

You show good critical thinking here: you have considered this point from various perspectives, and you have reached an informed conclusion.

Too descriptive

This section is too descriptive. Rather than simply summarising and describing the evidence, show more analysis by comparing, contrasting, interpreting and evaluating your evidence.

For more advice, see this guide from Study Advice:
<http://libguides.reading.ac.uk/essays/developing#s-lg-box-10921072>

You might also find this comparison between descriptive and more analytical writing helpful:
<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices/documents/description-vs-analysis---learnhigher.pdf>

Relevance

It is not clear how the point you are making here relates to the brief. Keep the question in mind when you are writing, and leave out anything that is not relevant to your argument.

For more advice, see this guide from Study Advice: <http://libguides.reading.ac.uk/essays/planning>

Generalisation

This is a broad, sweeping statement. Examine the claim you make here more critically, be more specific, and refer to supporting evidence.

For more advice, see this guide from Study Advice:
<http://libguides.reading.ac.uk/essays/developing#s-lg-box-10921072>

Structure

Main point unclear

It is not clear what your main point is in this paragraph. Explain your main point clearly, and make sure you are focusing on developing only that point in this paragraph. Start a new paragraph when you begin a new theme or take the argument in a different direction.

For more advice, see this guide from Study Advice:

<http://libguides.reading.ac.uk/writing/grammar#s-lg-box-11006759>

Well-structured paragraph

This is a well-structured paragraph that gets your point across clearly.

More signposting needed

Use more signposting (for example, "This essay will cover...", "The next theme is...", "firstly...secondly....finally") to make it clear where your argument is going and where it has been. A clear structure supported by signposting strengthens your argument and makes your writing easier to follow.

For examples of words and phrases you can use to signpost, see the Academic Phrasebank:

<http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/>

Underdeveloped introduction

This introduction could be developed further. Your introduction should identify the topic of the assignment, provide essential context, and explain what aspects your assignment is going to focus on and how it is structured.

For more advice, see this guide from Study Advice: <http://libguides.reading.ac.uk/essays/writing>

Language and style

Rhetorical question

Avoid rhetorical questions. The effect is to simply hand the issue back to the reader, rather than deal with it yourself. Identify the problem or the issue that lies behind your question, and explain this in more depth instead.

For more advice, see this guide from Study Advice: <http://libguides.reading.ac.uk/essays/writing#s-lg-box-10920990>

Overly long sentence

This sentence is difficult to understand because it is too long. Use punctuation to separate your ideas, and make sure they come in the right order in the sentence.

See this guide from Study Advice: <http://libguides.reading.ac.uk/writing/home>

Casual language

Your language is too informal here. The language in academic assignments should be formal and precise.

See this guide from Study Advice: <http://libguides.reading.ac.uk/writing/style>

Ambiguous descriptions

Avoid using vague descriptions such as this. Be more precise.

See this guide from Study Advice: <http://libguides.reading.ac.uk/writing/style>

Good academic writing style

This section is an example of a good academic writing style: you write clearly, concisely and with precision, and you clearly convey your point.