Interview 2

Speaker 1

Can you describe how you learned English academic writing?

Speaker 2

I learned it from the university. It's usually through practice and studies at the university and through teaching as well, because you learn when you teach exactly.

Speaker 1

How did you, your teachers, teach academic writing?

Speaker 2

It was more like lecturing. Because I've been taught in an older style of teaching, you know it's not like these days an interactive one. No, it was like more lecturing than interactive style of teaching.

Speaker 1

What was your teacher’s focus on teaching academic writing?

Speaker 2

Basically, it's the form of the piece of writing, whether it's a paragraph or an essay or writing letters, formal letters. So they focused on the form and then the details for each piece of writing.

Speaker 1

how did you improve your academic writing?

Speaker 2

Actually, through using it as I told you, through my experience of teaching and using it for my work, specially when I write emails, when I teach my students also the form the details of any piece of academic writing, yeah.

Speaker 1

How would you define academic writing?

Speaker 2

Yeah, it's different. It's not the same like informal kind of writing. So it has like a fixed specific form you need to follow in academic writing. OK, you cannot use the language that you use every day in this type of writing. And you need to use the language that we all use in universities. Schools.

Speaker 1

Is academic writing important for students?

Speaker 2

Yes, It is especially for their studies. OK, so in some majors it's essential to be honest. Yeah, it's very important and they have to learn and to follow this type of writing if they want to use it in their study and jobs.

Speaker 1

How does academic writing impact students’ higher education?

Speaker 2

It does, yeah, it does it. It influences their studies, you know, if, especially for those who travel abroad and study abroad, they need this type of writing because what they follow in the university is a formal writing.

Speaker 1

Is academic writing important for their academic learning prospects? Did it impact on their marks?

Speaker 2

Yeah, in their writing, and in their exams. Yeah, Sure, It will affect their marks. Because if they don't follow it in the university, so when to follow it then?

Speaker 1

Do you think students are able to express their opinion in their academic writing? why or how?

Speaker 2

They can, especially it's the best opportunity for them to express their opinion when they follow academic writing, you know. So but however it's limited because of some forms they need to follow. Especially the verbs or specific phrases they need to use in this type of writing.

Speaker 1

Where do you think that they can express their opinion during their writing academic writing?

Speaker 2

In their essays, when asked them to write about their opinion or suggestions.

Speaker 1

What's the different do you think about that when we say academic writing or argumentative writing?

Speaker 2

In argumentative one they have both sides of opinion they need to prove that something is wrong or right.

Speaker 1

Is there anything can help the student to express their opinion to write arguments in their writing?

Speaker 2

Yeah, sure. First, they need to know how to use these phrases and verbs, and even vocabulary for academic writing. Once they know how to use them and the meaning and the form and when to use these words, so it would be easier for them to apply it in their writing.

Speaker 1

Are there any barriers to teaching academic writing? What are they?

Speaker 2

Actually, the teacher has to be exposed to this type of writing she has or he has to have knowledge about it before teaching it to the students. Yeah.

Speaker 1

How would you describe the importance? Of using arguments in academic writing, is it important?

Speaker 2

Again, it depends on the topic you are discussing in your writing. It is important in some topics, yeah.

Speaker 1

What do you focus on when teaching writing arguments in academic writing?

Speaker 2

I always encourage them to think out-of-the-box. So, they need to have knowledge first of all about the topic they will write about and then in a vocabulary, for sure good grammar and good language.

Speaker 1

What do you think makes a text more organised and coherent?

Speaker 2

OK, using linking words using like conjunctions, they need to know how to move smoothly between ideas and then the language should be accurate and even the form of their piece of writing.

Speaker 1

What make the text more persuasive? And how or what the word they can use it to write?

Speaker 2

When they use examples and reasons and even suggestions in their writing. So yeah, I believe it would.

Speaker 1

Can you give me any example of words the student can use to make their writing more persuasive?

Speaker 2

For sure there are some phrases, verbs, so they have to know all the verbs and when the uses of the verbs forms uses pronunciation, if they speak.

Speaker 1

Do you think that students should be aware about their audience during their argumentative writing?

Speaker 2

Yeah, they have to worry about the reader. So to convince the reader that they are right or wrong or whatever. So, their writing should be interesting. For sure they need to use good punctuation marks. And as I told you the language again.

Speaker 1

Can you explain how students build strong arguments with the readers in academic writing?

Speaker 2

Again, when they follow like specific form in their writing.

Speaker 1

What is your focus when you give students feedback on their academic writing?

Speaker 2

OK, first I focus on the task achievement. If they understand the question and they fully answer this question. And then I focus on the language, punctuation, spelling, sentence structure. As well the sentences should be correct like they need to use the correct word order in each sentence like subject, verb etc. Yeah, this is the main focus.

Speaker 1

OK, so in the end of the interview, I'm going to show you an example of student writing and they have some few questions about it. This is essay. It's from one of student writing. How do you think this is a say, is it good or low level?

Speaker 2

It's not low level piece of writing because as I see in front of me, it's the form is correct. This an essay form and it has four paragraphs. Yeah. In the first paragraph we have general idea about the topic itself, which is online, it's education. Basically, the person who wrote this gave the topic at the beginning. For example, first paragraph online and then the definition of the topic or whatever. And then examples about it, which is supporting ideas. She started with general or main idea then supporting details. Good use of linking words, but as I can see here, I don't know how correct the linking words are because here she said furthermore, and firstly in the second paragraph. So that wasn't very clear to me, but however she used them correctly. Then she placed her opinion at the end and summarise everything in the last paragraph.

OK, she's not that in the high highest level. No, and not the low level. Somewhere in between, yeah.

Speaker 1

Can you explain the importance of using these words in academic writing; however, finally, such as, to sum up, I agree?

Speaker 2

It is very important to make your writing interesting, so you cannot use like simple sentences in all your writing, because it's not interesting. So, If you want to move between your ideas, you need them for sure. Yeah, they are important. But the way she used them, they should be used correctly from the beginning. All the words are to link the ideas and sentences as well. And to make her writing interesting for the reader to keep reading it.

Speaker 1

How do you teach these words?

Speaker 2

For example, I ask my students how they can tell people something. Or if they have an idea, how can they tell people about this idea in an interactive way.

The best for them, in my opinion, the question and the answer. OK, the best way to interact through academic writing classes or sessions is to share the ideas. For example, OK, I did this piece of writing. How about reflection one, or checklist. And then they I ask students check each other work. This is a way in academic writing and it interactive at the same time. So, they discuss their mistakes. They discuss what they did and what they didn't. this is kind of recommendation. They really need in our classes as ESL classes, English as a second language. Also, students need to make draft and reflect their writing.

Also, this is a teaching style or teaching way it depends on the teacher.

Actually, as I told you before, the form of writing is important. Therefore I focus on form if there introduction body conclusion. And the use of correct language as good grammar, good use of vocabulary.

Speaker 1

What is the students’ common mistakes in using conjunction words?

Speaker 2

A lot, even if they're speaking, they don't use them. I don't know why. Maybe they don't have enough knowledge about them.