



EE 100 ACADEMIC WRITING FOR ECONOMIC ISSUES

Session 1: What is Economic Writing?: Getting Started

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B.E. International Programme, Thammasat University

What is Academic Writing?



Planned and focused: answers the question and demonstrates an understanding of the subject



Structured: is coherent, written in a logical order, and brings together related points and material.



Evidenced: demonstrates knowledge of the subject area, supports opinions and arguments with evidence, and is referenced accurately.



Formal in tone and style: uses appropriate language and tenses, and is clear, concise and balanced

Types of Academic Writing



Descriptive: to provide fact or information, eg: a summary of an article or a report of the results of an experiment.

Keyword: define, identify, report, summarise



Analytical: descriptive writing + re-organise the facts and information you describe into categories, groups, types, or relationship, eg: how each theory can be used in practice

Keyword: analyse, compare, contrast, relate, examine



Persuasive: analytical writing + argument, recommendation, interpretation of findings or evaluation of the work of others

Keyword: argue, evaluate, discuss



Critical: persuasive writing + at least two points of view, including your own, eg: a critique of a journal article, or literature review that identifies the strengths and weaknesses of existing research.

Keyword: evaluate, debate, critique

Let's Practice: Describe

- Choose one word from the list below. (150 words max)
 - Opportunity cost
 - Scarcity
 - Market mechanism
 - Economic growth
 - Unemployment
 - Inflation
 - Externalities

You have 20 minutes to complete.

Structure of Academic Writing

- Introduction
 - Introduce a general overview of the topic and the purpose of the paper.
 - Explain as to why it is so important
 - Explain the organisation of the essay or paper
- Body
 - Present main ideas,
 - Elaborate directly on the topic by giving definitions, classifications, explanations, contrasts, examples and evidence
- Conclusion
 - Briefly summarise the main scope or structure of the paper
 - Confirm the topic that was given in the introduction
 - End with a more general statement about how the topic relates to its context, including implications for future research or recommendation about the theory or practice.

A Research Paper



Source: writingguide.se



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Earth System Governance

journal homepage: www.journals.elsevier.com/earth-system-governance

Research article

From Millennium to Sustainable Development Goals: Evolving discourses and their reflection in policy coherence for development

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ABSTRACT

The discourse of sustainable development is highly influential in global and national governance frameworks, though its meaning and operationalisation are context-dependent and have evolved over time. The transition from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) reflects the most recent evolution in this discourse. We analyse key differences in storylines between the MDGs and SDGs and develop an analytical framework to study these, focusing on the objectives of sustainable development, the means to reach those objectives, and the relations between developing and developed countries. We use this framework in quantitative and qualitative discourse analyses of the policy coherence for development (PCD) approach of the Netherlands. This shows that global discourses are closely reflected in national-level policy frameworks. During the MDG era, the key objective of sustainable development was poverty reduction to be reached through economic growth and participation in the global trade system. The SDGs aim for a broader set of objectives across the full spectrum of the economic, social and environmental dimensions. This is reflected in the Dutch PCD approach, first through a conceptualisation of environmental and social safeguards for trade and economic growth, and later with social and environmental sustainability as equally important objectives alongside poverty reduction. While the MDGs mainly focus on national averages and the poorest, the SDGs target the most marginalised and vulnerable groups with a focus on disaggregate data. In this respect, the Netherlands was ahead of its time; already in the early 2000s it acknowledged that "there is no question of 'the' developing countries". Related to this, the Dutch PCD approach also reflects the changed conceptualisation of the relations between developing and developed countries. This changed from aid to developing countries as reflected in the MDGs, toward partnerships with them, initially for the purpose of stimulating economic growth and trade, later also aimed at environmental sustainability. The article ends with a reflection on how our research findings contribute to debates around (the effectiveness of) governance through global goals, as well as to understanding the political nature of policy coherence for (sustainable) development.

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1. Introduction

Ever since the 1987 Brundtland report, the discourse of sustainable development has been and still is highly influential in global and national governance frameworks (UN, 1987). Its meaning and operationalisation, however, are context-dependent and have evolved over time (e.g. Lélé, 1991; Redclift, 2005; Fukuda-Parr, 2016; Sneddon et al., 2006; Holden et al., 2014; Ziai, 2015). The most comprehensive global governance framework for sustainable

development is the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs contain goals, targets and indicators in the areas of poverty reduction, environmental protection, human prosperity and peace (UN, 2015a). The 2030 Agenda was a follow-up to the 2000 Millennium Declaration with its Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the first comprehensive global governance framework for the achievement of sustainable development (UN, 2000).

The transition from the MDGs (2000–2015) to the SDGs (2015–2030) reflects the most recent evolution of the discourse of sustainable development. While the evolution of this discourse has been the focus of much academic literature (e.g. Lélé, 1991; Redclift, 2005; Fukuda-Parr, 2016; Sneddon et al., 2006; Holden et al., 2014;

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An Introduction

Agglomeration economies capture the benefits of the co-localisation of firms. These benefits are commonly analysed in terms of externalities, such as knowledge spillovers affecting productivity in nearby firms. This implies that the characteristics of the local economic environment provide determinants for the productivity of individual firms. In the literature on this subject four main sources of spillover effects can be identified. Jacobs (1969) argues that among geographically close firms diversity drives innovation and growth, which is part of urbanisation economies. A second view, referred to as Marshall–Arrow–Romer (MAR) externalities by Glaeser et al. (1992), is that specialisation in only one industry promotes growth, which is part of localisation economies. Third, Porter (1998) maintains that the most important aspect for firms to innovate and become more productive is competition. The last source of externalities concerns the labour market, whose importance was acknowledged already by Marshall (1890). Labour market matching gives rise to knowledge spillovers since labour mobility plays an important role in knowledge diffusion (Maske ll and Malmberg, 1999; Power and Lundmark, 2004).

Source: Sofia Wixe (2015) The Impact of Spatial Externalities: Skills, Education and Plant Productivity, *Regional Studies*, 49:12, 2053-2069

How to plan an essay



Task I

- Write a reflective report on what you have learned and practiced during today session. Also give three **Do's** and **Don'ts** in academic writing. (max 300 words)
- Due date: Friday 14 January 2022 by 4pm.