

**Authentic or Genuine Academic Writing**  
or  
**How to stop going through the motions with writing!**

**Authentic or genuine writing characteristics:**

- a. There is an investment by the writer – the writer is connected to the subject is not simply going through the motions.
- b. Support and examples are NOT contrived, but seem natural in relation to the topic, subject, or question.
- c. Support and examples connect with the reader and the reader’s experiences.
- d. The writing is unique and is not necessarily constructed as “most” writers without training might produce.
- e. Ideas flow naturally from one to another.
- f. Does not include forced vocabulary, but contains language appropriate for the topic, subject, or question, including technical terms when appropriate.
- g. Has a clearly defined audience and keeps that audience in mind throughout the writing.
- h. The writing has a clearly defined voice that can be “seen / heard” on the page.

**Sentences should:**

- a. make sense in relation to the topic, subject, or question.
- b. vary in length and complexity and include simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex types.
- c. flow from one to the other through the use of transition words or phrases.
- d. meet the expectation of the reader as to what will come next.
- e. move the reader forward with the topic, subject, or question.

**Paragraphs should:**

- a. focus on one idea or point.
- b. connect with the topic, subject, or question.
- c. clearly move the reader forward with the topic, subject, or question.
- d. provide meaningful support and examples that connect with the reader.