

# Student Transitions: Academic Writing at University

## What type of writing is expected?

- Differs from everyday informal / casual style
- Is coherent and clear
- Is well-structured and well-expressed
- Has a purpose and a line of argument
- Is evidence-based, with acknowledgement of sources
- Answers the question and provides some conclusions



## How can initial ideas be improved?

- Line of argument convincing?
- Written in appropriate academic writing style?
- Paragraphs developed through introduction, main body (series of points and arguments) and conclusion?
- Accurate spelling, grammar, punctuation and use of tenses?
- Appropriate referencing style?

## What is critical thinking?

- Presenting the argument[s] in a clear, well-reasoned and persuasive manner
- Supporting the argument[s] with appropriate evidence
- Sources: questioning surface appearances; identifying and evaluating evidence; recognising the writer's conclusions
- Using 'signposts' in discursive writing
- Acknowledging counter-arguments where relevant

