

A Scholarly Tone

- A scholarly tone makes writers' work credible and persuasive. By relying on research and writing formally and neutrally, an author's writing will reflect published academic work that connects with the audience.

5 Steps to Writing Scholarly



1. **Use 3rd Person Only:** writing in 1st or 2nd person appears conversational and opinionated instead of well-researched, which is the goal of scholarly writing.



2. **Avoid Gender Bias:** writers need to be respectful of people's race, ethnicity, and gender by using the proper labels when necessary.



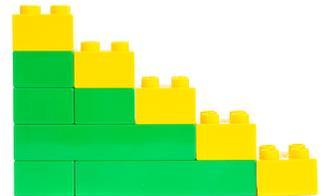
3. **Use Proper Diction:** writers should eliminate slang and text abbreviations from academic writing. Using the appropriate diction to address the audience increases writers' credibility as a scholar.



4. **Write Clearly:** scholarly writers often are expressing complex ideas. To minimize confusion, writers should attain clarity by eliminating complicated sentence structures that cloud their overall message.



5. **Write Actively:** writers should write actively and clearly so the audience does not become confused. *Please see the "Writing in the Active Voice" handout for more information.*



A Scholarly Example

According to **Williams** (2014), writers must "motivate" their readers, write "clearly," and soundly support their claims (p. 3). **Writers often create** hooks to captivate their audience's attention. While motivation and research significantly help writing, **Williams** (2014) **stressed** that writers need to "express" themselves clearly first, or ideas, no matter how **brilliant**, will always allude their audience's understanding (p. 3).

2. The writer used only the scholar's last name ("**Williams**"), thus, eliminating gender bias.

1. The writer maintained 3rd person point of view, which made their writing formal and neutral.

3. The writer used appropriate diction: "**brilliant**" is a better word choice than "awesome" because awesome sounds too informal rather than academic.

5. The writer wrote actively by using clear subjects and active verbs ("**Writers often create...**").

4. The writer used clear subject/verb sentence structures ("**Williams stressed...**").