



SENTENCE STARTERS FOR CRITICAL WRITING



Component: Academic Writing
ILO: To improve criticality in academic writing

TOOL

To encourage students to write in an academic style, you can set them small writing tasks in class. Using a list of critical sentence starters can prompt students to think more deeply about the subject.

ACTIVITY

Set a short writing task based on some knowledge they have been learning in recent sessions. You may need to have a brief revision session first.

Show students the Sentence Starters list and ask for some examples of how they can be used to create sentences about one of the given topics.

Ask students to write for a set time, say 10 minutes, on the given topic using the list to help shape their writing.

HOW

You could have different headings so a few subjects are covered in the session, or you could repeat this process over a few weeks leading up to assessment time.

You may want to scaffold this with extra information on the knowledge to be written about.

LARGE GROUP TEACHING

This is a solo activity however you could get students to review each other's work in small groups.

SUCCESS

Students are confident at writing on a critically reflective level.

NEXT STEPS

Get students to come up with their own sentence starters using the READ Backwards TLA. You could also organise the starters into sections that they would be appropriate for e.g., the introduction, literature review etc.

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Some sentences are in the first person/reflective (written as if I am speaking about myself - I can relate to this because...) and some are third person (The reader can infer from this text that...). Which style will you be writing in? Which can be used in either context?

A possible solution for this would be	This explains how
Another thing to consider is	This implies
Because of this	This indicates
Demonstrating that	This is important because
I can relate to this because	This justifies
I discovered	This made me think about
I found myself wondering	This makes me think of
I was reminded that	This persuades us to
I wonder why	This proves
If ___ could be applied to ___ then	This shows that
If this were applied to	This suggests
In this context however	This text reveals
It is clear therefore, that	This would suggest
Leading to the supposition that	ADD SOME OF YOU OWN:
My first impression of this was	
The implication being	
The inference to be drawn from this is	
The reader can infer from this text that	
The reader supposes	
The significance/implications of	
The suggestion here is that	
The supposition drawn from this being that	
The use of the word ___ conveys	
The writing made me form an opinion about	
Therefore	
This argument is convincing as	
This compares/contrast with	
This could be transferable/applicable to	
This demonstrates	
This describes how	
This emphasises the fact that	

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RESOURCES

www.musostudy.com/resources/3SS/sentence-starters.pdf

List of linking words handout