

Prompts used in the brainstorming phase

ChatGPT

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DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOPIC:

1. Suggest a topic for my essay. I am studying written communication at university, and the topic of the essay must be related to academic writing in some way. The essay is 3 pages long, so limit the topics to different perspectives. Give me 10 suggestions.
2. Can you narrow down the topic more so that the perspective is really precise?
3. However, the theme could be a little more generic. Could the theme be a modern and technological perspective on academic writing?
4. Could you combine themes 1, 4, 9, and 10?
5. Will all this fit in with three pages?

GAINING BASIC UNDERSTANDING:

1. What are the most important concepts in this topic? Can you explain to a child what artificial intelligence is and how it can help in the writing process?
2. Can you explain in more detail how artificial intelligence can help in searching for information?
3. Where should I start looking for information for my essay?

SCHEDULING:

1. Can you help me make a schedule for my course assignment? I have to write an essay on artificial intelligence as an aid to the academic writing process. The essay should be three pages long, and I need to find three academic articles to use as sources. I have 20 days until the deadline. I want to spend a maximum of 20 hours on this assignment. I have a three-day trip next week, during which I will not be able to work on the assignment. I would prefer to work on the assignment in small chunks over several days, for example, two hours a day. I would like to have a clear task for each two-hour time slot. This means I need to find, select, and read articles, take notes, plan the essay, write it, and edit it. I often spend a lot of time reading sources and drafting, but I'm pretty fast at editing. My goal is to get a grade of 3 (on a scale of 1-5).
2. Can you increase the time spent reading articles and reduce the time spent editing? Plus, I don't want to work while traveling or on weekends.
3. Could you add the working hours for each day?

The entire output of brainstorming ideas. See for yourself how the topic develops through discussions between writers and AI!

You said:

Suggest an essay topic for me. I am studying written communication at university, and the essay must be related to academic writing in some way. The essay is 3 pages long, so the topic needs to be quite specific. Give me 10 suggestions.

ChatGPT said:

Here are ten specific essay topics related to academic writing and communication:

1. **Objectivity in academic writing** – How is the principle of objectivity implemented in academic texts, and why is it important?
2. **The role of academic language in communicating research results** – How can academic language affect the comprehensibility and reception of research?
3. **The use of metaphors in academic communication** – How and why do researchers use metaphors to explain complex concepts?
4. **Open science and academic writing practices** – How are the principles of open science changing academic writing and publishing?
5. **The significance of peer review in academic articles** – How does the peer review process affect the form and content of academic texts?
6. **Taking the reader into account in academic writing** – How should writers take their audience into account when writing academic texts?
7. **Academic argumentation: rhetorical devices in academic texts** – How do researchers use rhetorical devices to convince their readers?
8. **The role of references and source citations in establishing the reliability of academic texts** – Why is the correct use of sources the cornerstone of academic writing?
9. **Clarity and comprehensibility of text in academic writing** – How can complex concepts be presented clearly in academic writing?
10. **The impact of gender on academic communication and writing** – Are there differences in how different genders communicate in an academic context, and if so, why?

Each topic offers a concise, well-defined perspective that is well suited to a three-page essay.

You said:

Can you narrow down the topic?

ChatGPT said:

Here are ten more specific essay topics:

1. **"For" vs. "because" in expressing causal relationships in academic texts** – How do these two connectives affect the presentation and comprehensibility of cause-and-effect relationships?
2. **The use of metaphors in neuroscience articles** – Why and how do metaphors help explain brain function in academic texts?
3. **The use of quotation marks in academic articles to express irony or uncertainty** – When and why are quotation marks used for this purpose in academic texts?
4. **The prevalence of passive clauses in biology research articles** – Why are passive forms preferred in certain natural science texts?
5. **The effect of word choice on credibility in academic abstracts** – How do choices such as "probably" or "certainly" affect the persuasiveness of a text?
6. **Presentation of special terms as abbreviations in medical writing** – When is it appropriate to use abbreviations, and how do they affect the reader's understanding?
7. **The impact of spelling mistakes on the credibility of academic texts** – How much can a small spelling mistake undermine the credibility of an academic text?
8. **The use of interrogative sentences in introductory paragraphs in social science articles** – When and why do academic writers choose interrogative sentences as a way to open their texts?
9. **The use of numbering and lists in academic article methods** – How does numerical listing improve the clarity and traceability of the methods section?
10. **The use of carefully chosen synonyms to avoid repetition in the humanities** – How can synonyms increase variation, but also potentially lead to misunderstandings?

These topics are very specific and focus on small but important details in academic writing. They are particularly suitable for shorter essays.

You said:

However, the theme could be a little more generic. Could the theme be a modern and technological perspective on academic writing?

ChatGPT said:

Here are some narrowly defined but somewhat more generic and technological perspectives on academic writing:

1. **The role of machine learning in checking academic texts** – How do AI-based tools such as Grammarly or Writefull affect the accuracy and clarity of academic texts?
2. **The impact of plagiarism detection tools on academic writing** – How have modern plagiarism detection programs (e.g., Turnitin) changed writers' practices and the transparency of publishing practices?
3. **Automatic text generation in academic writing** – How have AI programs such as GPT-4 influenced the process of academic writing, and where is the line between acceptable and unacceptable use?
4. **Open access to academic publications and its impact on the language and quality of publications** – Are there differences in writing style between open access publications and traditional paid publications?
5. **The impact of reference management software (e.g., Zotero, EndNote) on the academic writing process** – How has digital reference management changed the processing of sources and citation techniques?
6. **Using LaTeX in academic writing** – How do LaTeX and other text formatting programs affect the structure and appearance of academic texts, especially in mathematical and technical fields?
7. **The role of data visualization tools (e.g., Python, R) in academic communication** – How have modern programming languages and data tools improved the presentation of research results in academic texts?
8. **The impact of cloud-based writing platforms (e.g., Google Docs, Overleaf) on academic collaborative writing practices** – How have these technologies changed the way researchers write and edit academic texts together?
9. **The use of artificial intelligence in proofreading academic writing** – How have artificial intelligence tools improved (or limited) the quality of texts written by non-native academic writers?
10. **Automatic source searching in academic writing** – How have AI-based source search tools (e.g., Semantic Scholar) changed the process of conducting literature reviews?

These topics combine modern technological perspectives and academic writing, which is well suited to a topical essay.

You said:

Could you combine themes 1, 4, 9, and 10?

ChatGPT said:

You can combine themes 1, 4, 9, and 10 into the following essay topic:

Artificial intelligence as a tool in academic writing: Plagiarism detection, language checking, and source searching in the era of open access

In this essay, you can explore how AI-based tools such as plagiarism detection software, language checking software, and source search engines (e.g., Turnitin, Grammarly, and Semantic Scholar) have changed the process of academic writing. You can consider the role of AI in improving the quality of academic writing, ensuring reliability (plagiarism prevention), assisting non-native writers, and conducting literature reviews, especially with the increasing popularity of open access.

This provides a comprehensive but manageable perspective on modern technology in academic writing.

You said:

Will all this fit on three pages?

ChatGPT said:

Your topic is quite broad for three pages, so it could be narrowed down further. For example, you could focus on one or two areas of technology. Here is a more specific and concise proposal:

The impact of artificial intelligence on academic writing: Language checking and source searching in the era of open access

In this topic, you can discuss the impact of artificial intelligence tools (e.g., Grammarly and Semantic Scholar) on academic writing in two key areas: language checking and source searching. You can consider how these tools improve academic communication for non-native writers and speed up literature reviews, especially with the rise of open science and open access publications.

With this limitation, you can cover both topics thoroughly, and the scope of the topic remains manageable in a three-page essay.

You said:

I'm thinking about how AI can be used ethically and to help with learning at different stages of the writing process.

ChatGPT said:

This is a great and timely topic! You can focus on the ethical and learning-supportive use of artificial intelligence in academic writing at different stages. Here is a more specific topic and a possible approach for your essay:

The ethical and learning-supportive use of artificial intelligence in the academic writing process

The essay could be divided into the following sections:

1. **Artificial intelligence in information retrieval** – How can AI-based source search engines, such as Semantic Scholar, help students find reliable and relevant sources? An ethical perspective could be to evaluate the accuracy and diversity of sources.
2. **Artificial intelligence as a writing aid** – How can language checking and text improvement tools, such as Grammarly, support learning to write, and when does their use become excessive (e.g., if students no longer learn language and structure themselves)? Ethical question: Where is the line between helpful and excessive external support?
3. **Identifying plagiarism** – Plagiarism detection software, such as Turnitin, can help students understand academic writing standards and avoid unethical behavior. You can consider how they aid learning while ensuring ethical conduct.
4. **Automatic writing and its limitations** – Artificial intelligence can generate text (e.g., GPT-4), but how can students use this tool to support their learning without compromising their own input? How can we ensure that artificial intelligence supports learning rather than replacing it?

In this topic, you can discuss both ethical issues and the potential of artificial intelligence in supporting the writing process at different stages.