

Suggestions for Making Your Writing More Objective:

1. Remember that you don't need to write a phrase such as "I think" in order to make someone understand a particular idea is your own. By simply stating just the idea, your audience will know the idea is yours.

a. **EXAMPLES:**

- i. I think the author is trying to convey his frustration with society in this chapter.

Change to:

- ii. The author is trying to convey his frustration with society in this chapter.

- iii. After considering the possible causes of the unexpected test results, I think that further research and experiments are necessary.

Change to:

- iv. After considering the possible causes of the unexpected test results, it can be concluded that further research and experiments are necessary.

2. When talking about the emotional reaction one may have to a particular idea, try to make the idea the focus of your sentence, rather than how you felt.

a. **EXAMPLES:**

- i. This fact really surprised me.

Change to:

- ii. This fact was really surprising.

- iii. The teacher's condescending attitude toward the students angered me.

Change to:

- iv. The teacher's condescending attitude toward the students was unacceptable.

3. Avoid using “you” in academic writing. It can be confusing as to whom you are referring: the actual reader or a general individual.

b. EXAMPLES:

- i. When considering the reasons behind the catastrophe, you must address the failings of those in charge.

Change to:

- ii. When considering the reasons behind the catastrophe, the failings of those in charge must be addressed.

- iii. You can see his vanity when he stops to look into the monkey’s mirror at the zoo.

Change to:

- iv. His vanity can be seen when he stops to look into the monkey’s mirror at the zoo.

Note: Always check with your professor about the preferred writing style for the discipline.

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