

## **Comparison of Academic and Informal Writing**

### **Audience**

How do the intended audiences of the two articles differ? What are the concerns of these audiences? What do these audiences already know? What are their expectations when they read the article? What do they want to know and/or feel? What elements of the articles indicate the intended audience?

### **Tone**

Writing conveys a certain tone or “feeling” about the author and the author’s attitude towards the topic of a text. When referring to more expressive texts, tone is often discussed in terms of voice—the idiosyncratic features of a writer’s style. How does the tone or voice of the two articles differ? Provide some examples from the text.

### **Authority**

Audiences are interested in reading informative writing (or listening to informative oral presentations) because of the author’s authority or expertise in a given domain. What is the basis of the two authors’ authority? How is this established in the texts?

### **Rhetorical Structure**

Texts are more than collections of words: They have a structure that sets up and meets readers’ expectations. What is the structure of the two texts? How and why does the structure differ? What purpose do the structural elements serve?

### **Argument**

How do the texts put forth their arguments? Are there different standards of proof in the two texts? How do they treat claims, reasons, evidence, counter-arguments, and basic assumptions? Do they position their discussion within the previous discourse of a particular community? If so, what is this community?

### **Scope**

What is the scope of the two texts? Which text deals with a wider, more general topic and which one deals with a more focused topic? What factors are responsible for the difference in scope?

### **Sentence Mechanics and Grammar**

Academic and informal texts have different requirements in terms of grammar. In broad terms, how does the grammar of the two texts differ? What specific features differ? Provide some examples from the text. Examples should include punctuation rules.

### **Style**

Do the two texts include colloquialisms and casual expressions? Provide some examples.

### **Reference to Others’ Ideas**

What conventions do the two texts use to refer to others’ ideas? What’s the purpose of the citations in each text? What determines the citation style used in each text?

### **Vocabulary**

How does the vocabulary used in the two texts differ? Discuss the differences in detail and provide concrete examples.