Confidently Uncertain

Succeeding – Linear A Levels

- ✓ Academic writing – improve your answers through writing in an academic style.
- ✓ Building HABITS for success.

What do we mean by 'academic writing'?

- Academic writing should be: 'objective' not '**subjective**', 'intellectual' not '**emotional**', 'serious' not '**conversational**', 'impersonal' not '**personal**', and 'formal' rather than '**colloquial**'. Clanchyand Ballard (1992), cited in Jordan (1997, p.244)

- Academic writing is 'confidently uncertain' Skelton 1988

Increasing levels of formality through vocabulary choices

- I think that the main causes of tension in the novel are the differences between the two cultures which are represented. On the one hand, the characters long for the culture which they have left behind, but on the other hand, they want to fit into their new home and society. The different characters each respond to this tension differently, with some aiming to become more like the new society and other others clinging on to their home. In my opinion, the characters aren't able to find happiness because of this tension. 3 words

Increasing levels of formality through vocabulary choices

- The Lonely Londoners presents marginalised characters through the eyes of the narrator, Moses, a Caribbean **immigrant**. The **immigrant** experience **creates** inner **tension** throughout the novel as Moses and his friends attempt to **integrate** and **create** lives for themselves in London. The main **source** of **tension** is perhaps caused by the characters' drive to fit into a society which does not immediately accept them and where their **visible** differences prevent their progress. As a **consequence**, characters are subjected to racial prejudice and abuse. Some characters attempt to assimilate into their new society, disregarding their own values, whilst others **retain** their **traditional** values in an attempt to **create** their own **identity**. 10 words

Using nominalisation to increase formality

- What is nominalisation?

The process of turning a word (usually a verb) into a noun. Essentially, turning an action into a 'thing'.

- Why do this?

It creates an impersonal/objective and more formal tone.

- *I analysed the data from the experiment, and it revealed that children react when they have too much sugar.*

- *The analysis of the data revealed children's reaction to excessive sugar intake.*

Academic writing is 'confidently uncertain'

- Tentative language/hedging

- "*One of the features of academic writing is to be cautious in order to distinguish between facts and claims*"

  http://aeo.sllf.qmul.ac.uk/Files/Hedging/Hedging.html

Language used in hedging

Useful hedging	'That' clauses	'To'-clause + adjective
Appear to be…	It could be the case that..	It may be possible to obtain…
Believe / assume / suggest…	It might be suggested that..	It is important to develop…
Might / could / may / must…	There is every hope that….	It is useful to study….
Assuming / possibly / probably…		

Succeeding at A level (linear)

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then, is not an ACT, but a HABIT

Aristotle

Continuous Improvement