- It demonstrates good mechanical skills, including grammar, spelling, and punctuation.
- It is well organized, with main ideas introduced early on and defended, complicated, and refined through the paper.
- It is coherent and unified.
- It explores and explains worthwhile content.
- It is free from filler phrases, verbal tics, and space-wasters.
- It is aware of its audience.
- It situates itself within a discipline, discourse community, or scholarly field.

Academic writing is specific and deals with facts, not assumptions. Consider these two statements:

- At university students are expected to write academically.
- At James Cook University, students are expected to write academically by using formal language, clear structure and referencing.

It is based on critical judgments of ideas rather than an appeal of emotions. However, personal comments and viewpoints are expressed in some areas of research. Moreover, clarity is also necessary to convey the intended idea in a straightforward tone. Pretentious statements are not necessarily meaningful. Consider this statement: "The research referred to herein showed a multiplicity of factors that contributed to the multiple findings which indicated..." Consider this examples:

or consuming poisonous plants to More detail Research/facts

sites. For instance, research in Africa has found that chimpanzees in their natural habitat sometimes ingest the poisonous Veronia plant. This particular plant produces terpenes, which are toxic. In the correct dosage, the terpenes in Veronia kill intestinal worms while leaving the host animal unharmed. Researchers found that chimpanzees eat only the pith (the soft, spongy centre tissue) of the Veronia plant where the concentration of terpenes is optimal for the poisoning of parasites - and do not suffer any ill effects. The scientists have not discovered whether this self-medicating behaviour is learned or instinctive, but their research suggests that chimpanzees may understand the concept of dosage, as Veronia often proves fatal to other wild animals that ingest the whole plant. This research shows that chimpanzees and other animals have the capacity to treat parasites with plants from their natural surroundings; other research shows that when plants themselves provide the problem, wild animals employ yet another form of self-medication.

ation in wild animals is