

**Elftmann Student
Success Center**

**A Guide On
How To:**

**Write Your
Essay Style**

- Developing Style
- Giving My Writing Style

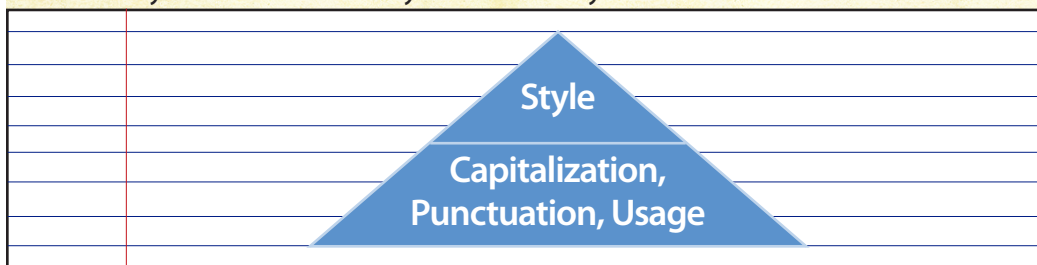


Writing The Essay Style

An effective piece of writing depends both on **what** is being said, and **how** it's being said. Style is essential for developing clear, concise communication in your writing.

How can I develop style?

Just like we learn how to walk before we learn how to run, developing style can only happen after a writer's built a solid foundation of capitalization, punctuation, and usage. After that, your style is determined by what words you choose.



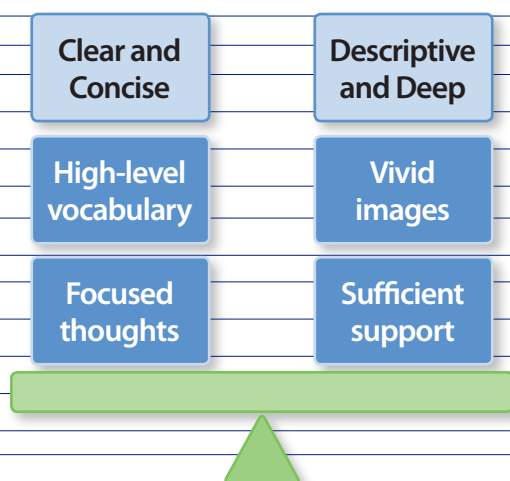
A rough draft is simply that: a **rough** collection of your ideas on a topic. **Style comes forward as you revise your rough draft** and decide how clear your argument is, or if there's anything else you'd like to add.

What characteristics will give my writing style?

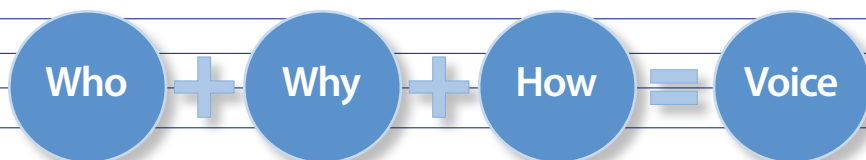
Does your reader....	Check ...
... run out of breath?	... for run-ons.
... sound short and choppy?	...for fragments or too many "baby" sentences.
... get lost and have to re-read?	...that your ideas are connected appropriately.
... sound robotic or predictable?	...that the beginnings and lengths of your sentences are varied.

Sentence Fluency: The rhythm of your sentences should help your thoughts flow from one to the next. Readers will have a tough time following your thoughts if this rhythm is broken up, disconnected, or uninteresting to read.

Word Choice: Effective word choice can be a balancing act between thoughts that are too short or too long. Using the right wording makes your message clear, and easy for your reader to “see” your perspective. It also gives you an opportunity to use the language of the field to give yourself credibility. Keep in mind, however, that it needs to be natural to be most effective; word choices that are out of place are very distracting to a reader.



Voice: This is a characteristic of writers who can use most other features of writing effectively in one piece. Voice is the culmination of all the other factors you’ve used in your writing.



For example, if a newspaper writer composes an article on this morning’s car accident, the purpose of that article would be to inform a general reader with the basic facts. The writer would choose language that speaks to most readers, and would frame

the facts in a way that's educational. The writer's voice, then, would be informative.

On the other hand, if an automotive company publishes an advertisement about its latest model, the purpose is much different. The content would most likely be favorable towards the new model, written for potential buyers, and framed in a way that makes the reader excited at the end. This voice would be considered persuasive.

The audience, purpose, mechanics, organization, structure, and language choices you've made throughout your writing will no doubt create a voice, whether you meant to or not. That said, it's up to you to decide if this is the appropriate voice to use, and what to change if it doesn't fit.

References

- Capital Community College. (2004). *Guide to grammar and writing*. Retrieved from <http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/index.htm>
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