

Writing style expectations – Dr. Molly Mullen

Video transcript

I think an important thing for students to understand when they are coming into the courses in education that we are teaching through critical studies in education, is that actually **different lecturers will have slightly different expectations around the styles of academic writing that they want to see.** So, in some instances, students will be expected to write in quite a formal, objective, academic voice, so to write in the third person, and to be very balanced and objective sounding in the way that they are using evidence to consider different views. In other instances, students will find that lecturers encourage them to be much more personal in their writing, to write about their own experiences and to reflect critically on those experiences, and to apply theories to their own experience. And some lectures are very comfortable with students using the first person. So, for example, **I will often invite my students to write in the first person,** but I will also explain to them the difference between writing personal opinion and writing academically in the first person. So, **we still need to find that sense of balance and the sense of rigour** in that we are supporting ideas with evidence and ideas from the course materials, **even when we are using our own voice to express those.**