

APSU Writing Center

Need to reach a word count?

How to Reach A Word Count

- In many academic assignments, you may encounter word count limits. Here are some strategies for both expanding your ideas and writing concisely.

How to expand your ideas

- **Elaborate on concepts**
 - Look for sections of your writing where you can elaborate on concepts or examples.
- **Use supporting evidence**
 - Strengthen your argument by including additional research from credible sources.
- **Break up your main points**
 - Introduce each new idea in its own paragraph, supporting it with evidence and using transitional sentences.
- **Review transitional sentences**
 - Add more specific details that link your paragraphs together smoothly.
- **Ask how and why questions**
 - Challenge yourself to add two or three more sentences to each existing paragraph.
 - Ask: "Is there anything more I can explain or expand on?"
- **Address the opposing viewpoints**
 - Consider possible counterarguments and defend your position against them.

How to write concisely

- **Eliminate redundant pairs**
 - Avoid unnecessary phrases like "each and every," "true facts," or "basic essentials."
- **Delete unnecessary filler words**
 - In academic writing, eliminate vague or overused words like "like," "really," "both," "just," "quite," and "often"
- **Identify and reduce prepositional phrases**
 - Delete phrases such as "in terms of," "with regard to," "there are," "I believe," "I think," and "the reason why is because" instead use words such as "about," "because," or "since."
- **Replace a phrase with a word**
 - Instead of writing "in the event that" or "in the likelihood of," be more concise and use "if" or "when."
- **Wordy Phrases**
 - Condense wordy phrases to narrow down your word count.
 - Concerning the matter of → About
 - Regardless of the fact that → Although
 - With the exception of → Except
 - In the process of → During, While
 - It is often the case that → Often

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References

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