

Dissertation Perfection

Words Not to Use

Top 10

WORD TO AVOID	WHY?	REPLACE WITH or AVOID
1. Informal pronoun 'it'	What is an 'it'? Your reader does not know what you are referring to by the 'it'?	DO NOT USE – reword the sentence and use the noun you are referring to in place of the 'it'
2. 'Therefore, however, thus, otherwise'	Too conversational, and also considered 'filler words' and add no meaning to the sentence	DO NOT USE and begin the sentence with the next word.
3. 'ALL or EVERY' researcher agrees.....	You are certain ALL or EVERY researcher agrees?	DO NOT USE - Better to replace with 'Many' or 'Several' or 'Some'
4. Research 'shows' or Table 1 'shows'	Too conversational and Research or a Table does not 'show'	Better to use 'reveals' or 'demonstrates' or 'illustrates'
5. 'Currently' or 'recently' or 'today'	These words suggest a date in time....What does this tell the reader who is reading your work 5 or 10 years from your writing?	DO NOT USE – begin the sentence with the next word.
6. This researcher 'feels' the importance of.....	Too conversational – scholarly writing should not include 'feelings'	DO NOT USE – How about: The researcher suggests or posits.....
7. This section of Chapter 2 'gives' an overview of the literature.	Chapter 2 does not 'give' (too conversational)	DO NOT USE – How about: The section 'provides' or 'presents'
8. 'This' or 'that'	What is the 'this' and what is the 'that?'	DO NOT USE , use the noun you are referring to instead
9. I, me, he, she, we, they, their, them	Informal pronouns do not contribute to scholarly writing	DO NOT USE , rewrite the sentence avoiding informal pronouns
10. America	Not specific enough	Use (United States, US, or USA)