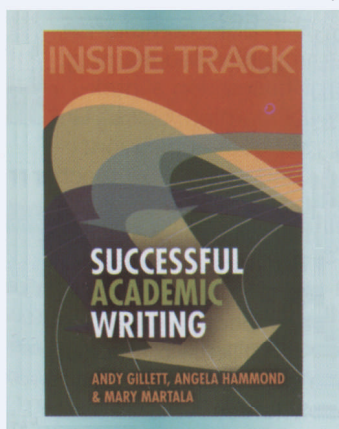


Book Reviews

Mark Krzanowski, the IATEFL ESP SIG Coordinator, reviews a selection of new EAP/ESP books



Inside Track to Successful Academic Writing

Andy Gillett, Angela Hammond and Mary Martala

Longman: 2009

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Successful Academic Writing is a brand-new publication in the *Inside Track* series published by Longman. The other two titles in the series are *Succeeding in Exams and Assessments* and *Writing Dissertations and Theses*.

Successful Academic Writing can be used with both undergraduate and postgraduate students who need to master or consolidate their writing ability in academic contexts. The book is useful for both native and non-native English speakers, as the topics and areas covered are of equal importance to any higher education student. The book consists of 15 chapters dealing with a very extensive range of academic writing issues including, inter alia: planning your work; carrying out the research; reading and note-taking; writing descriptively; writing critically; personal and reflective writing; finding your own voice; genre and discipline-specific writing. The authors make it clear that students do not need to follow the book chapter by chapter, and that they can simply select the chapters which are of interest or use. Each chapter is meticulously designed and executed, and provides an ample mix of theory and practice for users. For example, Chapter 6 (Features of academic writing) provides a theory dossier focusing on academic style, critical writing, referencing, developing paragraphs, writing plans, writing drafts and summary. The theoretical part is aptly matched by a practice section with relevant student activities which concentrate on identifying formality, finding synonyms, passive sentences, subjective and objective language, substituting questions, critical writing, dividing a text into paragraphs, topic, supporting and concluding sentences, signalling expressions and paragraph links. Students can compare their answers with those suggested by the authors in the 'Feedback on activities' section at the end of the book.

The rich subject matter, and the equally rich coverage of the book, provide a vehicle via which a resourceful learner is bound to improve his/her ability to write in an appropriate academic register, while observing all relevant conventions.

Successful Academic Writing is an excellent and comprehensive publication which makes a valuable contribution to the canon of established books used when teaching academic writing. The book can be used on various pre-university and university courses, including pre-sessionals, in-sessionals, foundation or bridging courses for international students, or academic literacy, study skills or learner support courses for 'home' students or for students who consider English to be their first language, second language or simply their 'lingua franca'.