

# Hedging in Academic Writing

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**Hedging in Academic Writing**

**Purpose**

- Express hesitation or uncertainty.
- Demonstrate politeness and indirectness.

**Hedging Language**

Believe, assume, suggest, seem, tend, looks like, appear to be, think, possibly, perhaps, conceivably, could, may, might, it could be the case that..., it might be suggested that..., there is every hope that..., etc.

**Hedging:** Weismann suggested that polar bears hibernate presumably to conserve the fat in their body.  
**No hedging:** Weismann found that polar bears hibernate to conserve fat in their body.

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Hedging is often used in academic writing to express uncertainty or indirectness in certain statements or findings. Authors can use certain keywords and phrases such as “possibly,” “indicate,” “suggest,” etc. in their writing to convey an idea if they are not too sure about it.

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