



Formal and Informal Language

Strategies for Academic Writing Series

1. Rewrite following sentences without contractions.
 - a. Informal: The improvements can't be introduced due to funding restrictions.
 - b. Formal: The improvements cannot be introduced due to funding restrictions
 - c. Informal: I don't believe that the results were accurate.
 - d. Formal: I do not believe that the results were accurate.
 - e. Informal: The research project won't continue next year.
 - f. Formal: The research project will not continue next year.

2. Phrasal verbs (two-part verbs often consisting of a verb and a preposition) are sometimes considered as less formal than other verbs. Rewrite the underlined phrasal verbs with more formal vocabulary words.
 - a. Informal: The balloon was blown up for the experiment.
 - b. Formal: The balloon was inflated for the experiment.
 - c. Informal: The patient got over his illness.
 - d. Formal: The patient recovered from his illness. (*Expressions with "get" and "got" are usually considered informal*)
 - e. Informal: The results of the study were mixed up.
 - f. Formal: The results of the study were confused/conflated. (*These words have different meaning—improve your vocabulary and look them up in a dictionary!*)
 - g.

3. The following sentences are mixed formal and informal. Write F (formal) or I (informal) in the brackets after each sentence.
 - a. The project will be completed next year. F
 - b. I showed that his arguments didn't hold water. I
 - c. We'll finish the job next year. I
 - d. It is possible to consider the results from a different viewpoint. F
 - e. Five more tests will be necessary before the experiment can be concluded. F
 - f. I don't know why the organizers put up with the problem for so long. I
 - g. The meeting took place at the mayor's office. F
 - h. The bridge will be closed for repairs. F
 - i. The burgers were totally delicious. I (*Totally is often considered informal*)

