

Style Continuum

Levels of Functional Variety	Spoken Forms	Written Forms	Characteristics
Hyper-formal	None (in serious usage)	Bad student papers Parodies	Overuse of prepositional phrases Unnecessarily complex words Little action – noun-based Overuse of passive constructions
Formal	Gettysburg address Inaugural address Religious sermons	Scripture Doctoral Dissertation Serious technical treatise 2020 Research Paper 2020 Annotated Bibliography 2020 Review of Literature	No contractions Seldom use of 1 st person No slang Active verbs Complex words Complex sentences Formal structure Very careful grammar
Informal	Newscasting Ordering in restaurants Classroom discussion	Letter of introduction Letter of recommendation 1010 Problematized Topic 1010 In-class essay Newspaper 2020 Memos, Letters 2020 Rhetorical Summary 2020 Research Proposal	Occasional contractions Occasional use of 1 st person No slang Active verbs Average complexity Structure varies Attention to grammar
Casual	Conversation with strangers Ordering fast food Conversation with acquaintance	Letter to the editor Memos Writing journal Letters to acquaintances 1010 Personal Narrative 1010 Exploratory Research 2020 Emails 2020 Reflective Essay	Frequent contractions Frequent use of 1 st person Occasional slang Active verbs Simple words Simple sentences Casual structure Little attention to grammar
Intimate	Talking to family or close friends	Letters to family or close friends Personal journal Notes of the fridge 2020 Freewriting 2020 Blog	Numerous contractions Nearly constant use of 1 st person Lots of slang Active verbs Simple words Incomplete sentences No organized structure Highly condensed grammar