



# Linking references together and developing your own voice

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## Introduction

When you write an assignment it is important to evidence how you have reached conclusions about the material you are discussing. If you do not do this your tutor is likely to question the reasoning underpinning your work. This resource outlines how to illustrate your reasoning to a reader.

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## The following outlines how to draw a reasoned conclusion in a paragraph

### First sentence - Start with what is known

You would normally start your paragraph by introducing the topic that you will address in your paragraph. This could be done through reporting what an author has said about the topic you are going to discuss.

### Example:

Jones (2011) reported that students' confidence and academic achievement can be enhanced through participation in study skills sessions.

## Next few sentences - Expand on what is known

Over the next few sentences you should elaborate on the point that you made in the first sentence. This could be done through elaborating on the first reference you used.

### Example:

Jones (2011) reported that students' confidence and academic achievement can be enhanced through participation in study skills sessions. Specifically, this author found that students who had attended a series of workshops were awarded a higher average grade at the end of term than students who did not attend.

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## AND/OR

Introducing another reference(s) and linking this to the first reference

### Example:

Jones (2011) reported that students' confidence and academic achievement can be enhanced through participation in study skills sessions. Specifically, this author found that students who had attended a series of workshops were awarded a higher average grade at the end of term than students who did not attend. This is supported by King (2007) who found that participation in study skills sessions resulted in a higher degree classification.

## Other useful words/phrases for linking references together

To show agreement	To show disagreement
Likewise	However
Similarly	Whereas
In addition	In contrast
Furthermore	As opposed to
Moreover	However

## Final sentence - Draw a reasoned conclusion

Once you have presented your evidence you should draw a reasoned conclusion about the topic you have discussed.

### Example:

Jones (2011) reported that students' confidence and academic achievement can be enhanced through participation in study skills sessions. Specifically, this author found that students who had attended a series of workshops were awarded a higher average grade at the end of term than students who did not attend. This is in line with King (2007) who also found that participation in study skills sessions resulted in a higher degree classification. Therefore, it would seem that provision of study skills support is linked to student attainment.

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## Useful words/phrases for introducing a reasoned conclusion

- Therefore
- Consequently
- Based on this
- This would imply
- Collectively this would suggest

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## Drawing an overall assignment conclusion

Whilst writing your assignment each paragraph should make one point (one reasoned conclusion). Through considering all paragraphs in your assignment you will be able to construct a reasoned conclusion of the overall assignment.

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## Further information

The Learning Resources Study Hub provides a range of opportunities (such as workshops and drop-ins) for you to enhance your academic skills. For more information visit:  
**[lrweb.beds.ac.uk/studyhub](http://lrweb.beds.ac.uk/studyhub)**

