Academic Writing Alternatives: Social Studies

NOVA SCOTIA
NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE

Choosing more academic words in your writing is important because it helps you communicate ideas clearly, making your work more credible and persuasive. Using precise formal language shows your understanding of the topic and helps your audience understand your argument. Review your writing to see where you might revise it to include some of the words below.

Instead of…	Try …	Instead of…	Try …
before	Prior to, previously	*after*	Subsequently, thereafter
big	Significant, major	*small*	Minor, limited
help	Assist, facilitate, support	*use*	Utilize, employ, apply
change	Alter, transition, shift	*idea*	Concept, notion
think	Evaluate, assume	*important*	Crucial, significant, fundamental
law	Legislation, policy	*show*	Demonstrate, display
problem	Issue, challenge	*cause*	Factor, source
need	Requirement, necessity	*result*	Outcome, consequence
plan	Strategy, approach	*different*	Distinct, varied
way	Method, approach	*job*	Task, role
agree	Consent, concur	*decide*	Determine, resolve to
make	Create, construct Force, coerce	*start*	Initiate, embark, commence
end	Terminate, conclude, finalize	*give*	Provide, offer, distribute
understand	Comprehend, interpret	*good*	Beneficial, advantageous, effective
bad	Detrimental, harmful, adverse	*get*	Acquire, obtain, achieve
find out	Discover, determine, ascertain	*think about*	Consider, contemplate, reflect on
talk about	Discuss, address, examine	*ask*	Inquire, request, question
say	State, assert, express	*do*	Perform, execute, carry out
look at	Observe, examine, analyse	*put*	Place, position, allocate
take	Exact, obtain, acquire	*tell*	Inform, notify, convey