Writers should use language appropriate for the audience and occasion. In academic writing, you should use a formal style.

Read each of the following statements and indicate whether the language is formal, informal, or somewhere in between. Then share your ratings with a classmate. Discuss what makes a sentence more formal and what makes a sentence less formal.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Statement** | **Formal or Informal?** |
| They don’t say what they want. smh. |  |
| It is unclear from the article what **alternative** the writer prefers. |  |
| Of course, there are many benefits to the current, **traditional curriculum**. |  |
| They got their reasons for doin things like they do. |  |
| It is clear that skills like **communication** and critical thinking are **essential** for students to **flourish** in a 21st-century career. |  |
| I don’t know I think they just need to communicate more. |  |
| There is no reason to believe the characters are **motivated** by **greed**. |  |
| Ultimately, better communication is needed between colleges and the companies that hire graduates. |  |
| Nothing in the story about it. |  |

**Vocabulary Supports**

**Alternative:** Another choice

**Communication:** The act of sharing information

**Essential:** Absolutely necessary

**Flourish:** Thrive

**Greed:** Excessive desire for wealth

**Motivated:** Compelled to action

**Traditional Curriculum:** Content and instruction based on past/older practice handed down