## **LECTURE 8**

## **Supporting Details: Facts, Quotations, and Statistics**

Academic writing normally requires that you support your ideas and opinions with facts, statistics, quotations, and similar kinds of information. You get these kinds of supporting details from outside sources such as books, magazines, newspapers, Web sites, personal interviews, and so on.

الكتابة الاكاديمية تتطلب أن تدعم أفكارك بالحقائق والاحصائيات والاقتباسات، تستطيع الحصول على هذه التفاصيل الداعمة المحددة من مصادر خارجية مثل الكتب، المجلات، الصحف، مواقع الوب، المقابلات الشخصية وغيرها.

## **Facts versus Opinions**

First, it is important to distinguish between facts and opinions. Opinions are subjective statements based on a person's beliefs or attitudes.

e.x:

Men are better drivers than women.

Smoking is a bad habit.

English is an easy language to learn.

من المهم أن نميّر بين الحقائق والأراء، الآراء هي تصريحات شخصية مبنية على معتقدات الشخص ومواقفه. كما في الأمثلة السابقة.

Opinions are not acceptable as support. It is certainly acceptable to express opinions in academic writing. In fact, most professors want you to express your own ideas. However, you may not use an opinion as support, and if you express an opinion, you must support it with facts. <u>Facts are objective</u> statements of truths.

الآراء لا تعتبر داعمة إطلاقاً، وعندما تطرح رأيك يجب أن تدعمه بالحقائق. الحقائق هي بيانات موضوعية حقيقية. كما في الأمثلة التالية:

At sea level, water boils at 100 degrees Celsius.

Women live longer than men.

Cigarettes are addictive.

Sometimes even facts need proof. While all three statements above are facts, the last two need proof. Your readers may not believe that women live longer than men, or they may not agree that cigarettes are addictive. You have to use specific supporting details to prove that these statements are true facts. Kinds of specific supporting details include examples, statistics, and quotations.

حتى الحقائق أحياناً تحتاج إلى إثبات، يجب أن تستخدم تفاصيل داعمة محددة لتبرهن صحة الحقائق للقراء، أنواع التفاصيل الداعمة المحددة تشمل الأمثلة، الاحصائيات، والاقتباسات.

OPINION	Photographs of ultrathin fashion models send the wrong message to girls and young women.
FACT, BUT NEEDS PROOF	Fashion models are unnaturally thin.
SPECIFIC SUPPORTING DETAIL	The average model weighs 25 percent less than the average woman of the same height.

#### **Practice:**

Decide which of the following statements is an opinion, a fact that needs proof, or a specific supporting detail.

#### Write:

- O for opinion
- F-NP for fact that needs proof
- SSD for specific supporting detail

F-NP	1.	People who steal identities do a lot of damage before
		their victims become aware of it. (The writer could give an
		example of a person who was victimized before noticing it.)
O	2.	Punishment for identity thieves is not severe enough.
		(The writer could give an example of a typical punishment.)
SSD	3.	Last year, the losses of victims totaled more than \$7 billion.

- 1- اخترنا f-np لأنه كان بإمكان الكاتب أن يعطى مثالاً حول شخص تضرر من سرقة هوبته قبل أن يدرك ذلك.
  - 2- اخترنا ٥ لأنه كان بإمكان الكاتب أن يعطى مثالاً حول العقاب الأمثل لسارقي الهوية.
    - 3- اخترنا ssd لأنه يوجد رقم يمثل إحصائية.
- 4. Identity theft is more serious than any other type of theft. 0
- 5. Identity theft is increasing at a rapid pace. F-NP
- 6. In 2000, 31,000 cases of identity theft were reported to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC); in 2003, the number was 210,000. SSD

### **Using Outside Sources**

Where can you find specific supporting details to support your ideas? For some assignments, you may be able to use examples from your own personal experience, or you may be able to gather quotations and statistics by performing an experiment, taking a survey, or interviewing people.

أين يمكن أن تجد التفاصيل الداعمة المحددة؟ في بعض المهام يمكنك أن تستخدم تجاربك الشخصية كأمثلة، أو من جمع الاقتباسات والاحصائيات بأداء تجربة أو عمل استطلاع أو إجراء مقابلات مع أشخاص.

For other assignments, you may have to look for outside sources by researching your topic in a library or on the Internet.

وفي بعض المهام الأخرى يجب عليك أن تتجه إلى المصادر الخارجية مثل البحث في المكتبة أو الانترنت.

# There are three ways to insert outside information into your own writing:

- (1) You can quote it
- (2) you can summarize it
- (3) you can paraphrase it

هناك 3 طرق لإدراج المعلومات الخارجية في موضوعك: 1-تقتبسها 2-تلخصها 3-تعيد صياغتها.