

## Crafting Voice in Informational Writing

**Voice** is the energy, intention, and tone behind a piece of writing. Sometimes people call it the “personality” behind the writing. Writers shape the voice of their text based on their purpose and intended audience.

**Look at the example provided, and then try experimenting with different voices on your own.**

Voice	Topic	Writing
Authoritative and reliable	The search for life in outer space	Scientists have used a variety of methods to determine whether there is life beyond Earth. Some scientists have focused on finding rocky planets that orbit nearby stars in what are called “Goldilocks Zones,” which have the correct range of temperatures for liquid water. Other scientists focus on using highly advanced listening devices to detect electronic or radio signals that could be from intelligent life elsewhere in our universe.
Curious and open-minded		Are we alone in the universe? The universe is massive, so some would argue that life beyond Earth is practically guaranteed. However, if we haven’t found any evidence in all our time searching, maybe there’s nothing to find? There’s also the question of the type of life we expect to find—simple and microbial, or advanced and intelligent? Maybe the search itself is more about human nature than alien life.

**Now choose a topic that you’re familiar with (like the water cycle or the Grand Canyon) and practice writing with different voices.**

Voice	Topic	Writing
Authoritative and reliable		
Curious and open-minded		

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Try writing with another set of voices and a new topic.

Voice	Topic	Writing
Passionate and knowledgeable		
Skeptical or indifferent		

Now try coming up with your own voices and topic!

Voice	Topic	Writing