

## Step Up to Masters: Developing your voice (transcript)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4h\\_9Eo8IJTY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4h_9Eo8IJTY)

### What does academic voice mean for a Masters student?

Dani: I think the academic voice when you're a Masters student is about being able to summarise and critique all of the information that you've been reading and actually come about it in a way that shows that you understand the evidence and you understand that there can be weaknesses in the evidence but you're giving your best argument for why you're taking the stance that you're choosing to in your work.

Jackie: I think academic voice is one of the hardest things that many students find to develop and I think it's that move from being a student to being somebody whose voice is valued when you come to University at Masters level, you really are stepping in to that point where you can start to influence and change knowledge and understanding and that's where your voice has to come out. We are very very interested in what you have to say and your perspectives on knowledge that already exists and how that develops and it's really important, it's important to me as a lecturer working here that I engage with students and I learn a lot from them about how they see the different concepts that I've been engaging in with many years and how they take that forward and so developing your voice and knowing how to present your thinking and your ideas in an articulate way that is supported by the evidence and that you can bring new justification to the thinking is really what you're aiming to achieve at the end of the day so that you leave confident to be able to voice your thinking, not your opinions, but your thinking, supported and justified.

Tristano: For us is very important that the Masters students show their ability to be independent thinker and be able to, you know, to deliver their specific reflections and judgments over a specific topic and therefore we want them not just to describe things but rather to give their opinion in a professional and sustained way.

### Do you have any tips on developing a line of enquiry for an assignment?

David: In your Masters degree, you'll be asked to develop your own lines of inquiry from research and this can be a very challenging process but that's exactly what it is, it's a process, so it's not something you can do by reading one paper or you will do overnight, it's a systematic and almost circular process by which you read, you write notes, you make questions and you read more until you're actually confident in yourself that that line of inquiry is the right line of inquiry.