

Internal Shifts

Students want to devote time to their essays, but then we come to the deadline crunch.

Learning two or three different documentation styles for different disciplines is difficult; in fact, it sucks.

Research is enjoyable when it isn't rushed. The hardest part was always documentation.

Shifts of **point of view**, shifts of **tone**, and shifts of **tense** are disconcerting. Consistency is preferable.

Solution

Keep the point of view, tense, or tone consistent. In academic writing, the more formal is preferable.

- *Students want to devote time to their essays, but then they come to the deadline crunch.*
- *Learning two or three different documentation styles for different disciplines is difficult; in fact, it is generally disliked.*
- *Research is enjoyable when it isn't rushed. The hardest part is always documentation.*

or

- *Research was enjoyable when it wasn't rushed. The hardest part was always documentation.*

In the case of tense, choose the most appropriate. The first pair of sentences about research expresses a generalization – something which is (almost) always true. The second pair states a particular experience in the past.

For more information see

Pronoun consistency

Tense consistency