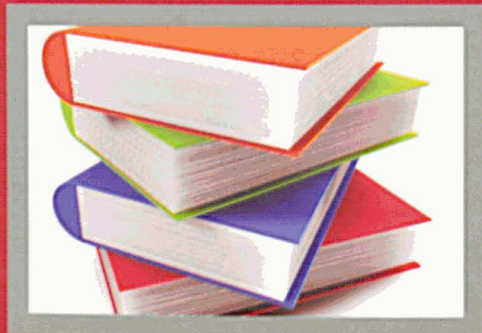
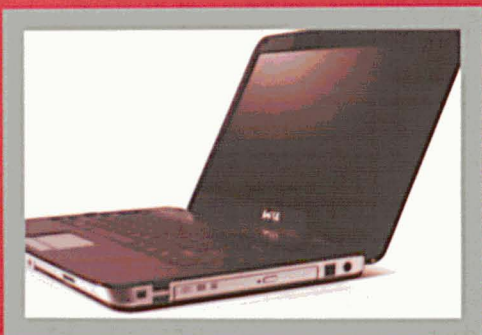




BREAKTHROUGH

A STRATEGIC APPROACH TO
ENGLISH FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES



FIRST EDITION

SITI SALMIAH MUHAMMAD

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USIM Publisher
Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia
Bandar Baru Nilai
Negeri Sembilan
2013

FIRST PUBLISHED 2013

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Published in Malaysia by:

USIM Publisher

UNIVERSITI SAINS ISLAM MALAYSIA

71800 Bandar Baru Nilai

Negeri Sembilan Darul Khusus

Tel: 06-798 8226/6081 | Faks: 06-798 6083

www.penerbit.usim.edu.my

info.penerbit@usim.edu.my

**USIM Publisher is a member of the
MALAYSIAN BOOK PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION (MAPIM)**

Printed in Malaysia by:

REKA CETAK SDN. BHD.

No. 14, Jalan Jemuju Empat 16/13D,

Section 16, 40200 Shah Alam,

Selangor Darul Ehsan.

Tel: 03-5510 4254 | Faks: 03-5510 4059

Email: rekacetak83@gmail.com

National Library of Malaysia

Cataloguing-In-Publication-Data

Siti Salmiah Muhammad

Breakthrough: a strategic approach to English for academic purposes /
Siti Salmiah Muhammad.

Bibliography: p.

ISBN 978-967-0393-71-1

1. English language--Study and teaching (Higher). 2. Reading.

3. Writing. I. Title.

428.20711

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FOREWORD

I am pleased to say a few words at the beginning of this book, aimed at developing English skills necessary for students to effectively participate in an academic program in university. English for academic purposes (EAP) entails training undergraduates to effectively use English language for their study. It is a challenging and multi-faceted area within the wider field of English language learning and teaching (ELT), and is one of the most common forms of English for specific purposes (ESP). English for academic purposes however, is interesting and helpful for students at tertiary levels since it enables them to *maximise their learning*.

BREAKTHROUGH: A Strategic English for Academic Purposes is a book that assists undergraduates to build upon skills learnt in general English courses, and continues to develop their language skills needed to meet academic demands and succeed in academic settings. This book is designed to be both learner and teacher friendly, with its notes, guides and extended activities created at the end of each entry. The reading selections provide authentic, challenging and thought provoking reading materials from different disciplines which encourage undergraduates to polish their reading skills and develop critical thinking. The writing section offers step-by-step guides into academic writing. The book is also equipped with language inputs to refresh undergraduates' existing knowledge. They will also be trained to be aware of English language usage through its editing section. This book therefore, has plenty to offer.

Current global job market undeniably has increasingly emphasised graduates who are qualified, all-rounded and competitive. The ability to use English effectively, accurately and proficiently will broaden graduates' opportunities to secure top and promising careers in the future. Thus, with the calls both by Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) and the Malaysian government to underscore the mastery of English language among graduates, the publication of this book is indeed timely.

It is hoped that whilst making English more relevant in undergraduates' academic journeys, **BREAKTHROUGH: A Strategic English for Academic Purposes** will be able to boost undergraduates' confidence and language abilities. This will eventually benefit their future endeavours.

PROFESSOR MADYA PAIMAH ATOMA

Director

Centre for Core Studies

Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My words of appreciation go to the following individuals for making **Breakthrough: A Strategic Approach to English for Academic Purposes** a reality. I am grateful for the generous supports and encouragements from Y.BRS. Prof. Madya Paimah Atoma, the Director of Centre for General Studies and Puan Noorhana Abdullah, the coordinator of English Language Unit at the Centre for General Studies, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia USIM. I would like to express my appreciation to Cik Juliana Niza Ismail Adnan, Puan Azni Zain, Puan Nur Dalila Muhamad Nazri and Cik Nadiyah Bashah, the reviewers and editors who have contributed through their keen editorial eyes and helpful comments. A special thanks goes to Puan Hariza Yusof and USIM Publisher staff for their remarkable assistance and commitment in speeding up this publication. I would also thank all colleagues and all individuals including my ex-students who have contributed directly or indirectly in giving ideas, inspiration, and motivation. To my future students and all students taking English for Academic Purposes EAP, may you have moments of fun and fruitful learning in your quest for academic excellence.

SITI SALMIAH MUHAMMAD

Centre for Core Studies

Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia

INTRODUCTION

For undergraduates at tertiary levels, the ability to master English and use it effectively in ensuring their academic performance in their respective disciplines is very crucial. At tertiary levels, undergraduates often have to read and write extensively. Considering these needs, the objectives of this book are mainly four folds. The book presents authentic reading materials with different levels of complexities, so undergraduates will be able to read sources according to their field of studies and at the same time practise and polish their existing reading skills. Since universities typically offer English for Academic Purposes EAP courses for students who have already completed their English proficiency courses, this book serves as the right platform for them to also read sources across different disciplines. Each reading text is extended into short writing activities to encourage critical thinking and prepare them for academic writing. To facilitate undergraduates in writing from academic essays to research papers, this book treats writing as a process and thus it presents and guides undergraduates to find topics, plan, organise, develop, and eventually proof-read and edit their own writings. Undergraduates and instructors will also find a language awareness section and an editing section to support them towards language accuracy and refinement.

It is hoped that **BREAKTHROUGH: A Strategic Approach to English for Academic Purposes** will greatly facilitate learning so undergraduates can use English effectively in their academic and non-academic environment in the future.

READING SECTION



LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

At the end of this section, students are able;

1. To use reading skills effectively to help them understand any given genres.
2. To read critically and respond to the texts.
3. To use reading in preparation for academic writing.

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is designed to prepare college or university students with academic reading and writing which are crucial for their academic survival.

Throughout the book, there will be notes as well as tasks to guide and help students and instructors alike. The tasks encourage students to be autonomous and reflective learners. Hopefully, students will find this book handy, user-friendly, motivating and instrumental in enhancing their English language skills. At the same time, may this book alleviate some of the many instructors' and language teachers' burden of preparations for their academic English courses.

Key features:

- Reading section presents authentic reading articles from different fields to expose students to academic reading, encourage them in utilising their existing skills and further develop their critical thinking skills.
- Writing section provides notes as well as guided tasks to ensure students master argumentative essay writing and argumentative research essay.
- Language awareness section provides selected grammatical items and reinforces students' grammatical knowledge needed in academic writing.
- Editing section offers guides on how to proof read, edit and refine writings, so students will be more aware of their language usage.

