HEDGING

HEDGING IS . . .

Hedging is an important feature of academic writing.

YOU CAN USE HEDGING BY…

..being cautious in your writing, and using phrases that show degrees of
certainty or probability, rather than absolute certainty.

COMMON LANGUAGE FEATURES USED IN HEDGING

- **Introductory verbs** (e.g. seem, tend, look like, appear to be, doubt, be sure, indicate, suggest, assume)

- **Certain modal verbs** (e.g. will, must, would, may, might, could)

- **Adverbs of frequency** (e.g. often, sometimes, usually)

- **Modal adverbs** (e.g. certainly, definitely, clearly, probably, possibly, perhaps, conceivably, arguably)

- **Modal adjectives (**e.g. certain, definite, clear, probable, possible)

- **Modal nouns** (e.g. assumption, possibility, probability)

EXAMPLES OF HEDGING

- *The results of the study **may** provide a solution to the problem.*

- ***It is assumed** that playing violent video games **may cause** more aggression and bullying.*

- *The main concerns for future generations are **probably** going to be global food supplies and population growth.*

- ***This seems to suggest** that the impact of the UK's ageing population will lead to increased welfare costs.*