

Intensive Course in Research Writing

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Intensive Course in Research Writing: Session 14 (15 July 2015)

Today

- Discussion: presenting science to the public
- Presentation/discussion: resources for continuing to develop your professional communication skill
- Presentation/discussion: editing your own work
- Workshop: looking ahead
 - Completing and submitting your current paper
 - Continuing to develop your writing skill and to write
 - Sharing your learning from this course with others
- Course evaluation
- Presentation of certificates

Feedback on Panel Discussion

Presenting Science to the Public

- Have you presented information in your field to members of the public? If so, please briefly describe.
- Based on your experience, the reading, and yesterday's slides: What do you consider some of the most important advice for presenting science to the public?
- What questions do you have?

Some Resources for Continuing to Develop Your Professional-Communication Skills

(in part a review)

Some Resources Mainly for Non-Native Users of English

- UsingEnglish.com (www.usingenglish.com)
- Academic Phrasebank (www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk)
- Scientific English (www.authoraid.info/en/resources/details/1064/)
- ESL presentations by guest speaker Susan Aiello, DVM (third presentation through last presentation at www.authoraid.info/en/resources/?q=aiello)

Some Other Useful Resources

- Getting the Most out of Words, from *Editing and Publication: A Training Manual* (available at www.authoraid.info/en/resources/details/652/)
- OneLook Dictionary Search (www.onelook.com)
- Grammar Girl (grammar.quickanddirtytips.com)
- *The Elements of Style* (www.bartleby.com/141/)
- Designing Conference Posters (colinpurrington.com/tips/poster-design)

AuthorAID (www.authoraid.info)

- Primarily to help researchers in developing countries to write about and publish their work
- Includes a Spanish version
- Some potentially relevant components
 - Resource library
 - Blog (titled “News”; can sign up for email alerts)
 - Email discussion list
 - Mentorships (can be a mentee, mentor, or both)
- Idea: Spend some time looking at the AuthorAID website. Maybe do some bookmarking.

Non-Electronic Resources

- Your textbook
- Other books (for example, on writing in your fields)
- Presentations (including online)
- Writing centers
- Faculty members
- Editors & peer reviewers
- Courses
- Each other

Editing Your Own Work

(a next step now that you have compiled the parts of your paper)

Why bother editing your own work?

- Can increase likelihood of acceptance
 - By meeting criteria for content and style
 - By avoiding misinterpretation
 - By creating a good impression
- Can aid communication with readers
- Can minimize editing by others (and thus decrease likelihood of distortion)
- Other

The Essentials

- **Content**
- **Organization**
- **Clarity**

In editing one's own work, checking for these items is more important than polishing the language.

Gaining Sufficient Distance

- Setting the draft aside for a while
- Printing out the draft
 - Offers a fresh view
 - Helps in noticing macro-level aspects
- Changing the look of the draft—for example:
 - Changing the typeface
 - Increasing the margins
 - Printing the draft on colored paper
- Reading the draft aloud

Some Items to Check For

- Compliance
- Completeness
- Composition
- Correctness
- Clarity
- Consistency
- Conciseness
- Courtesy

Note: Consider using checklists.



What are some things that you especially plan to check for when editing the draft of your paper?

Workshop: Looking Ahead

- What main items are on your “do list” for completing and submitting your current paper?
- What plans do you have for continuing to develop your writing skill?
- What plans do you have to do further writing?
- Do you plan to share your learning from this course with others? If so, how?
- (Please be ready to present 2 or 3 minutes of highlights of your discussion.)

Course Evaluation

- Written evaluation
 - Discussion

Presentation of Certificates

Also: souvenirs for class members
who excelled on the no-lose quizzes

Wishing you all the best!