Scientific Writing

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1:00 A 3:30PM
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What is scientific writing?

The **reporting of original research** in journals or more broadly to encompass other ways that scientists share research information with one another, including review articles, posters and slide-based presentations.
Scientific writing IS NOT science writing.
To research is to reach past our own knowledge and experience to:

- seek out
- investigate
- use materials
Research is to go beyond personal resources in three ways:

- It may be the study of a subject through firsthand observation or investigation.
- It may be the examination of studies that other researchers have done.
- It may be an amalgamation of the previous two.
Scientific papers are comprised by the following sections:

- Title
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Materials and Methods
- Results
- Discussions
- Conclusions
What are the first operations?
-Planning
-Documentation
-Organization
The first step towards successful scientific writing is to establish constraints:

- Anticipate audience
- Determine format
- Consider politics
- Polish mechanics
Research is not completed until it is made public.
Vehicles for making communication effective:

- Structure
- Language
- Illustration
Three ideas to keep in mind:

• Organizing ideas is the task of writing.

• The backbone of all writing is its structure.

• Strategy and purpose lead the reader into understanding.
There are two major ways to organize your material

- Topic Outline
- Sentence Outline
TOPIC OUTLINE
Choices in College and After

**Thesis:** The decisions I have to make in choosing college courses, depend on larger questions I am beginning to ask myself about my life’s work.
I. Two decisions described

A. Art history or chemistry
   1. Professional considerations
   2. Personal considerations

B. A third year of French?
   1. Practical advantages of knowing a foreign language
   2. Intellectual advantages
   3. The issue of necessity
II. Definition of the problem

A. Decisions about occupation

B. Decisions about a kind of life to lead
II. Definition of the problem

A. To hold open a professional possibility: chemistry

B. To take advantage of cultural gains already made: French
SENTENCE OUTLINE
Choices in College and After

Thesis: The decisions I have to make in choosing college courses, depend on larger questions I am beginning to ask myself about my life’s work.
I.

I have two decisions to make with respect to choosing college courses in the immediate future.
A. One is whether to elect a course in art history or in chemistry.

1. One time in my life, I planned to be a chemical engineer professionally.
2. On the other hand, I enjoy art and plan to travel and see more of it.
B. The second decision is whether to continue a third year of French beyond the basic college requirement.

1. French might be useful both in engineering and travel.

2. Furthermore, I am eager to read good books which are written in French.

3. How necessary are these considerations in the light of other courses I might take instead?
II. My problem can be put in the form of a dilemma involving larger questions about my whole future.

A. On the one hand I want to hold a highly-trained position in a lucrative profession.

B. On the other hand I want to lead a certain kind of life, with capacities for values not connected with the making of money.
III. I will have to make a decision balancing the conflicting needs I have described.

A. I will hold open the professional possibilities by electing chemistry.

B. I will improve and solidify what cultural proficiency in another language I have already gained, by electing French.
The different kinds of writing:

- Expository
- Persuasive
- Descriptive
- Narrative
Writing is an organic process, where separate sections converge in one unitary task: to transmit an idea.
What is needed to begin an argument?

Your argument should be presented to the reader in one sentence which is called the thesis statement or “claim”

-it must always be defined and stated clearly.
-it is an interpretation of the subject matter under discussion.
-it tells the reader what to expect.
-makes a claim that others might dispute.
The basic unit of a composition is the paragraph

a. Topic sentence
b. Warrants or supporting details
c. Clincher or transitional sentence.
Writing Workshop Session
Conclusions
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