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Writing Science In Plain English (Chicago Guides To Writing, Editing, And Publishing)



Synopsis

Scientific writing is often dry, wordy, and difficult to understand. But, as Anne E. Greene shows in *Writing Science in Plain English*, writers from all scientific disciplines can learn to produce clear, concise prose by mastering just a few simple principles. This short, focused guide presents a dozen such principles based on what readers need in order to understand complex information, including concrete subjects, strong verbs, consistent terms, and organized paragraphs. The author, a biologist and an experienced teacher of scientific writing, illustrates each principle with real-life examples of both good and bad writing and shows how to revise bad writing to make it clearer and more concise. She ends each chapter with practice exercises so that readers can come away with new writing skills after just one sitting. *Writing Science in Plain English* can help writers at all levels of their academic and professional careers; undergraduate students working on research reports, established scientists writing articles and grant proposals, or agency employees working to follow the Plain Writing Act. This essential resource is the perfect companion for all who seek to write science effectively.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"In these 124 brisk pages, Greene manages to deliver a series of practical, hands-on lessons to make scientific prose more lucid, more direct, more immediately comprehensible, and, yes, more concise." (Science Editor)"A great resource for anyone preparing to embark on scientific writingâwhether a paper for class or a research article submitted for publication."

(Choice)"Greene's feet are placed firmly on the ground. Her recommendations are widely applicable, and the solid ideas presented in this book should influence good use of English in any situation. Scientists should treat Writing Science as a user manual to keep their writing on track." (Journal of Scholarly Publishing) "This is the best book of this sort I have read. Anne E. Greene practices what she preaches, writing clearly for a general scientific audience. She comes across as both highly knowledgeable and accessible. Greene makes achieving clarity look simple, and I found myself marveling at her wizardry. Readers will find the text empowering." • (Gina Maranto, University of Miami)"Why must the scientific literature be as confusing and dull as an insurance contract or a manufacturer's warranty? It doesn't have to be like that! Writing Science in Plain English can teach any scientist how to write more compelling and lucid papers. Anne E. Greene deserves a round of applause from scientific editors, peer reviewers, and readers everywhere." (David S. Wilcove, Princeton University)"Writing Science in Plain English should be required reading for both established scientists and undergraduates who might become scientists. Anne Greene uses plain English and instructive examples from the scientific literature to show student writers how to say what they need to say more concisely, more accessibly, and more effectively. Would that all writers followed her advice." (John Alcock, Arizona State University) "This guide echoes the advice I have given to students in scientific writing classes over my career. It rebuts the notion that science writing is different in kind and exempt from the rules that apply to other non-fiction writing: it requires strong narrative direction, active voice, strong verbs, short words where possible, and so on. This lucid, step-by-step book should be required reading for entering graduate students in the life sciences, and will be a welcome addition to the instructor's reference shelf." • (Steven W. Buskirk, University of Wisconsin "Madison)

Anne E. Greene is a biologist by training and teaches scientific writing in the Wildlife Biology Program at The University of Montana.

After reading this book for a biology elective at the University of Washington I will never be able to read scientific literature the same. I am constantly critiquing articles I read and have begun editing my own publications accordingly! You'll love it!

This is a superb book -- in the spirit of Wydick's PLAIN ENGLISH FOR LAWYERS but written with scientists in mind. Everyone can benefit from taking a look at it, and it will be especially good for students and post-docs as they begin a career.

Plain, simple, helpful information. Some tips are kind of obvious, but overall it is a good and inspiring read. Highly recommended.

This is a great simple book to help fine tune your writing to be concise and clear. A nice reference book to have around

I highly recommend Anne Greene's book. She devotes each of her very short chapters to one or two key elements, and those elements lead to very clear, concise writing in any field. When writing about science, especially journal articles, authors tend to write in the third person and use passive verbs and abstract terminology. She tells her readers how to overcome these and many more problems. Although most of the principles are simple, they are unfamiliar to many students and professionals I've encountered. She also presents the reader with exercises to build skills in their implementation. I am teaching an undergraduate scientific technical writing course; this book does more in less time to improve writing than anything I've encountered to date. Whether you are teaching such a course or want a quick way to improve your own writing, you should buy this book. Your students won't believe that it is possible to buy a textbook so cheaply. An added benefit is that you can read it online or with regular e-book applications and are not constrained to reading it in the applications that many publishers require for textbooks. This enables students to read it on campus computers that don't allow the installation of applications.

it was a required book for my son who is in college-----I think he'll refer to it often.

Really helpful. A clear and direct approach to writing to everybody without use jargon and obscure classical scientific term. A must read, for all the new scientist!

Useful, engaging, to the point, and just what an academic short of time but that needs to improve his writing craft needs. A definite thumbs up.

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