

## Best Practices in Scientific Writing

Below is a list of resources about scientific writing. For the most benefit in the least time with no cost, work through the Duke online Scientific Writing Resource, then read Part 1 (about 50 pages) of Zinsser's book *On Writing Well* (available free online), and finally go through the online material for the Stanford Writing in the Sciences class.

### Books about writing

- Gowers R, Gowers E. 2014. *Plain Words*
- Gray-Grant D. 2008. *8 ½ Steps to Writing Better, Faster*
- Pinker, S. 2014. *The Sense of Style*
- Silvia PJ. 2007. *How to Write a Lot*
- Strunk W, White EB. 1979. *The Elements of Style*
- Zinsser W. 1976. *On Writing Well* (free online: [archive.org/details/OnWritingWell](http://archive.org/details/OnWritingWell))

American Scientist article "The Science of Scientific Writing"

[www.americanscientist.org/issues/pub/the-science-of-scientific-writing](http://www.americanscientist.org/issues/pub/the-science-of-scientific-writing)

Video of Steven Pinker discussing good writing

[www.intelligencesquared.com/events/steven-pinker-ian-mcewan-good-writing](http://www.intelligencesquared.com/events/steven-pinker-ian-mcewan-good-writing)

A free online course from Stanford about "Writing in the Sciences"

[www.coursera.org/course/sciwrite](http://www.coursera.org/course/sciwrite)

Kamat, Buriak, Schatz, Weiss. 2014. Mastering the art of scientific publication: Twenty papers with 20/20 vision on publishing. *J. Phys. Chem. Lett.*, 5:3519-3521.

Kotz, Cals, Tugwell, Knottnerus. 2013. Introducing a new series on effective writing and publishing of scientific papers. *J. Clinical Epidemiology*, 66:359-360.

How to Get Published. A discussion by Brad Roth and Mike Sevilla about writing and publishing scientific papers, hosted the OU graduate student group GradConnection.

[gradconnection.weebly.com/videos-and-photos/how-to-get-published](http://gradconnection.weebly.com/videos-and-photos/how-to-get-published)

A free online webinar about debate between using the active or passive voice

[www.acs.org/content/acs/en/events/upcoming-ac-s-webinars/active-passive.html](http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/events/upcoming-ac-s-webinars/active-passive.html)

Duke University's online Scientific Writing Resource, open to all.

[cgi.duke.edu/web/sciwriting](http://cgi.duke.edu/web/sciwriting)

Nonnative English speakers (and the rest of us too) should see the website *Scientific English as a Foreign Language*.

[users.wpi.edu/~nab/sci\\_eng](http://users.wpi.edu/~nab/sci_eng)

