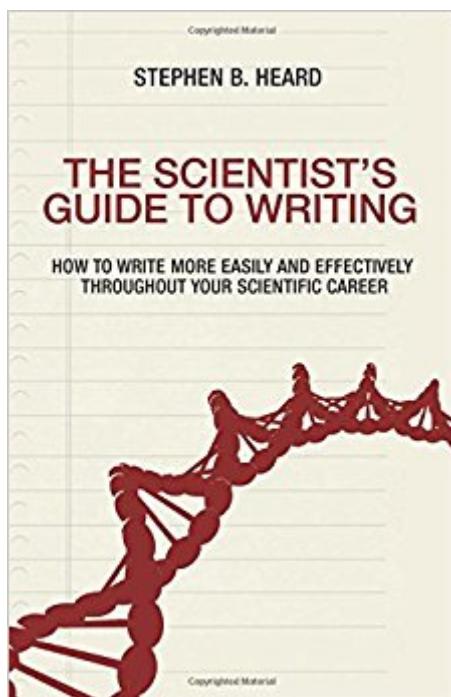


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# The Scientist's Guide To Writing: How To Write More Easily And Effectively Throughout Your Scientific Career



## Synopsis

The ability to write clearly is critical to any scientific career. The Scientist's Guide to Writing provides practical advice to help scientists become more effective writers so that their ideas have the greatest possible impact. Drawing on his own experience as a scientist, graduate adviser, and editor, Stephen Heard emphasizes that the goal of all scientific writing should be absolute clarity; that good writing takes deliberate practice; and that what many scientists need are not long lists of prescriptive rules but rather direct engagement with their behaviors and attitudes when they write. He combines advice on such topics as how to generate and maintain writing momentum with practical tips on structuring a scientific paper, revising a first draft, handling citations, responding to peer reviews, managing coauthorships, and more. In an accessible, informal tone, The Scientist's Guide to Writing explains essential techniques that students, postdoctoral researchers, and early-career scientists need to write more clearly, efficiently, and easily. Emphasizes writing as a process, not just a product. Encourages habits that improve motivation and productivity. Explains the structure of the scientific paper and the function of each part. Provides detailed guidance on submission, review, revision, and publication. Addresses issues related to coauthorship, English as a second language, and more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Heard provides a well-written, useful guide across the various scientific specialties, emphasizing the need to create a paper that clearly reflects the goal of the writer and also has literary merit."--Choice "In an accessible, informal tone, this book explains essential techniques that

students, postdoctoral researchers, and early career scientists need to write more clearly, efficiently, and easily."--Lunar and Planetary Information Bulletin"Heard's book is both a delight to read and highly informative. . . . The Scientist's Guide to Writing meets with my approval, strongly. I recommend Stephen Heard's book to anyone, not just to scientists who choose to improve their academic writing."--Stephen K. Donovan, *Journal of Scholarly Publishing*

"A tremendous resource for new science writers. Heard writes so that you want to keep reading, which of course is the skill he's teaching in this book. The Scientist's Guide to Writing is carefully considered, engaging, and full of useful ideas."--Mikaela Huntzinger, coauthor of *How to Do Ecology: A Concise Handbook*"Delightfully informative. Heard covers nearly every circumstance in which a scientist may need to write--from preparing a scientific paper for publication, to preparing a grant application, to responding to reviewers. This book is a gold mine of useful guidelines and good advice."--Mark P. Silverman, author of *A Certain Uncertainty: Nature's Random Ways*"Writing skills are vital for scientists, contrary to persistent myths among some undergraduates. Stephen Heard has produced a helpful, tightly written guide that will help many in their quest to communicate their research elegantly."--Jeremy T. Kerr, University of Ottawa

The Scientists' Guide to Writing is about the process of writing, and is not a nuts and bolts style reference. Stephen Heard takes the reader from author behaviors, such as procrastination versus bashing, finding your story and sticking with it, working with collaborators, dealing with the science article publishing process, and responding to reviews (including responding to idiotic reviews). Heard is a bit of heretic, with the gall to suggest that whimsy, jokes and occasional literary flourish have a place in science writing. He's an ecologist, but the book is agnostic to discipline and he went to the trouble to base his many examples around a contemporary research dispute from astronomy. This is certainly the only book on science writing that I found myself reading from cover to cover, and it's probably the only book on science writing to be live tweeted chapter by chapter, #SciGuideToWriting.

This book was insightful, helpful, and actually enjoyable to read. Heard lays bare scientific writing as a process, pointing out places where improvement can be had. He also dives in to the sections of scientific papers and has valuable advice on style. All the while, his witty footnotes and asides sprinkle enough humor to entertain without distracting from the overall themes (i.e., he practices

what he preaches). As a published researcher, this book has already had an impact in the way I go about starting the writing process; I now think of writing as much more of an iterative process instead of an eureka-seeking adventure. I have no doubt that this book will be useful to others in clarifying writing as process and for building a scaffold that can be used again and again for easy scientific story-telling.

I really wish I had this book at the very beginning of my graduate education. Clear, practical and inspiring. Have read it from beginning to end.

A great resource!

A useful and engagingly written resource. This book will be especially helpful for graduate students and early career professionals, but I suspect more senior scientists will enjoy reading it as well. I am going to highly recommend this book to my graduate students, and as a resource for graduate writing seminars in my department.

Insightful and realistic. There is a wealth of advice for all parts of the manuscript and all parts of the writing process.

This is a great resource for the SISTEMMA course I teach in 10th grade.

Very helpful book and easy to read

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