



SciWrite 1.x

1.1: Introduction

- What makes good writing?
 - communicate an idea clearly and effectively
- What makes a good writer?
 - having something to say
 - logical thinking
 - few simple, learnable rules of style

1.2: Negative examples

- spunky verbs become clunky nouns: selection → select, expression → express
 - verbs accelerate the reading
- complex ideas don't require complex language
- scientific writing should be easy and even enjoyable to read

1.3: Principles of effective writing

- use of nouns instead of verbs: progression, initiation, expression
- use of vague words: molecular species
- use of unnecessary jargon and acronyms: "gliomagensis"
- passive voice: "has been shown"
- distance between the subject and the main verb
 - reader waits for the verb
- **Principles of effective writing**

1. cut unnecessary words and phrases; learn to part with your words
2. use the active voice (subject + verb + object)
3. write with verbs: use strong verbs, avoid turning verbs into nouns and don't bury the main verb!

1.4: Cut the clutter

- be vigilant and ruthless
- try the sentence without the extra words and see how it's better - conveys the same idea with more power
- common clutter

1. dead weight words and phrases

- "as it is well known"
- "as it has been shown"
- "it can be regarded that"
- "it should be emphasized that"

2. empty words and phrases

- basic tenets of
- methodologic
- important

3. long words or phrases that could be short

- a majority of → most
- a number of → many
- are of the same opinion → agree
- due to the fact that → because

4. unnecessary jargon and acronyms

- only if they are well known

5. repetitive words or phrases

- studies/examples
- illustrate/demonstrate
- challenges/difficulties
- successful solution

6. **adverbs**

- very, really, quite, basically, generally, etc.

1.5: **Cut the clutter, more tricks**

- eliminate negatives
 - "She was not often right" → "She was usually wrong"
- eliminate superfluous uses of "there are/there is"
 - results in more exiting verbs
- omit needless prepositions
 - "that" and "on" are often superfluous

1.6: **Practice cutting clutter**

Original: Anti-inflammatory drugs may be protective for the occurrence of Alzheimer's Disease

Edited: Anti-inflammatory drugs may protect against Alzheimer's Disease

Original: Clinical seizures have been estimated to occur in 0.5% to 2.3% of the neonatal population

Edited: Clinical seizures occur in 0.5% to 2.3% of the newborns