Basic Training: Science Writing Lecture 3, HW#2.

Keep your sentences as simple as possible, both in terms of structure and choice of words.

< A bad example>

Because septin filaments mark the site for cytokinesis, and because there is a specific cell cycle checkpoint that monitors the state of septin filament assembly, that we also discovered such knowledge may allow, ultimately, the development of therapeutic agents and clinically valuable strategies, on the one hand, to impose a permanent checkpoint arrest as a means of halting the growth of malignant cells in various cancers, including breast cancer, and, on the other, to overcome such checkpoints to re-activate proliferation of quiescent differentiated cells (for example, to stimulate multiplication of the residual beta-cells in patients suffering from Type 1 diabetes as a means to repopulate the pancreatic islets with insulin-producing cells).

1. Parallel construction
   1. If you want to be a good experimental physicist, you must study hard, critically think about the physics literature, and you should be a good technician.
   2. This research follows four distinct phases: (1) establishing measurement instruments (2) pattern measurement (3) developing interventions and (4) the dissemination of successful interventions to other settings and institutions.
2. Euphemisms
   1. the lack of success
   2. economically disadvantaged
   3. limited in strength
   4. pre-owned
   5. absence of evidence supporting

1. Redundancy
2. Write with nouns and verbs
   1. Nouns: specifics with punch
      1. Utilization
      2. Finalization
      3. Carrying out the calculation of the integral
   2. Verbs: action
      1. New crystals showed a greater degree of tendency to reflect electromagnetic waves
      2. Obtain estimates of

* + 1. Provides a methodologic emphasis

* + 1. Take an assessment of

1. Make verb (predicate) visible. Keep an eye on subject-verb separation.
   1. One study of 930 adults with multiple sclerosis (MS) receiving care in one of two managed care settings or in a fee-for-service setting found that only two-thirds of those needing to contact a neurologist for an MS-related problem in the prior 6 months had done so (Vickrey et al 1999).
   2. The smallest of the URF's (URFA6L), a 207-nucleotide (nt) reading frame overlapping out of phase the NH2-terminal portion of the adenosinetriphosphatase (ATPase) subunit 6 gene has been identified as the animal equivalent of the recently discovered yeast H+-ATPase subunit gene. The functional significance of the other URF's has been, on the contrary, elusive. Recently, however, immunoprecipitation experiments with antibodies to purified, rotenone-sensitive NADH-ubiquinone oxido-reductase [hereafter referred to as respiratory chain NADH dehydrogenase or complex I] from bovine heart, as well as enzyme fractionation studies, have indicated that six human URF's (that is, URF1, URF2, URF3, URF4, URF and URF5, hereafter referred to as ND1, ND2, ND3, ND4, ND4L, and ND5) encode subunits of complex I. This is a large complex that also contains many subunits synthesized in the cytoplasm.
2. Use active voice
   1. It was found that 1+1 does not equal 2.
   2. It was concluded that the data were bogus.
   3. It is believed that the data had been falsified.
   4. As is shown in Table 3…
3. Pronoun-antecedent correspondence
   1. “We are sure there are always things one could have done differently, but we really believe we did at least a couple of things right.”
   2. “British Airways is encouraging any passenger who can say that their business class isn’t the most comfortable in the air to write and tell them why.”