

## Writing Tips for Scientists (and Most Disciplines)

### 1. Ways to Introduce Evidence:

- According to Smith,
- Smith (use one of the alternatives to “said”) advises, accuses, affirms...
- In Smith's (use one of the alternatives to “said”) view, description, remarks...

### 2. Be Objective:

<u>Avoid Personal Pronouns</u>	<u>Try These Instead</u>
I	One...
Me	The audience...
My	The reader...
You	The data shows that ...
Your	The data collected signifies...
Us	The evidence depicts...
We	The results proved that ...
Our	An example of ...

### 3. Instead of “Said,” Try These:

- Advises
- Affirms
- Assures
- Challenges
- Concedes
- Confirms

- Declares
- Describes
- Discloses
- Emphasizes
- Explains
- Implies
- Notes
- Remarks
- Reveals
- Shares
- Speculates
- States
- Warns

4. **Avoid Cliches, such as:**

- In modern society...
- Throughout history ...
- In this day and age...
- In the current climate...
- From the dawn of man...
- This raises more questions than it answers...
- One step closer to a cure...
- This study shows...
- Scientists have found...
- The next ice age...

## 5. Writing Guidelines:

### a. Ask the right questions

Begin ordering your ideas by asking yourself the questions: what? where? when? how? why? and who?

### b. Focus on your reader

Ask yourself, “Who is my audience?” and “Why do they care?”

### c. Avoid scientific jargon

Most people overestimate how much their readers know and bombard them with too many technical words and phrases.

### d. Create a compelling opening paragraph

The introduction is meant to convince readers to read your paper. Convince readers that you have identified an important, open scientific question that they should care about. Your readers should expect an answer to that question which will encourage them to read on.

### e. Keep it Short and Simple

Avoid long flowery phrases. Presenting information in short, manageable chunks also helps you to keep the reader with you.

### f. Proofread

Always proofread carefully by printing out your document and combing through it word for word. Most important – read it out loud!