SCIENTIFIC WRITING: A TUTOR’S GUIDE

- Includes any writing that relates to scientific research.
- Includes lab reports, article reviews, & journal articles.
- Differs from writing in the humanities in that the voice of the writer is not heard and the writing uses simple, plain language.
- Uses the passive voice.

Helping Students with Organization

- The IMRD format stands for Introduction, Methodology, Results, and Discussion. This format can be used to help organize all scientific writing assignments (The IMRD checklist breaks down each section of the IMRD format, and you can use it whenever you encounter scientific writing).

- The bulk of paragraph-based writing is at the beginning and end of the assignment (Introduction, Methodology, and Discussion sections), while the least amount of paragraph-based writing is at the middle (Results section).

- Lab reports: every item on the IMRD checklist is included.

- Article reviews: the summary section should touch upon items in IMRD checklist, while critique section should evaluate the logic in the research.

Writing Style and Tips

- Students should clearly explain concepts and then move on without overexplaining.
- Technical terms and abbreviations should be defined.
- Figurative language should not be used.
- The student should commit to their hypothesis throughout their assignment.

Audience:
Students 1-2 semesters behind the writer