

Why is good writing important?

Chapter 1

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Joshua Shimel, *Writing Science*, p. 4

**AS A SCIENTIST, YOU ARE A
PROFESSIONAL WRITER**

Joshua Shimel, *Writing Science*, p. 5

**IT IS THE AUTHOR'S JOB TO MAKE
THE READER'S JOB EASY**

Joshua Shimel, *Writing Science*, p. 6

**IF YOU WANT YOUR WRITING TO BE
EFFECTIVE, BECOME A WRITER**

Joshua Shimel, *Writing Science*, p. 7

**AN ARTIST NEVER COMPLETES A
WORK – THEY MERELY LET IT GO**

Reading Articles

What is the paper about?

- What question(s) is it trying to resolve?
- Find the independent variable: the variable that is being manipulated by the researcher
- Find the dependent variable: the variable that is being measured by the researcher

What is the paper about: critique

- Is the question trivial?
 - Is it a minor step, e.g., looking at the color blue instead of the color red
- Is it theoretical or of practical use to designers?
- Are the selected variables appropriate for the question?

How was the experiment done?

- Is the method used similar to past research or new? If new, how is it justified?
- Draw the procedure:
 - G1 -> Task1 then Task2 then Task3
 - G2 -> Task2 then Task3 then Task 1
 - G3 -> Task3 then Task1 then Task2

How was the experiment done: critique

- Is there enough information to be able to draw the procedure?
- Was the presentation order random or the same for everyone?
- What population did they sample from?
- Is there any variable they should have controlled for that they didn't?

What did they find

- If quantitative, did they find any differences?
 - Did they do a statistical analysis?
- If qualitative, what are the important results they got?

What did they find: critique

- Is the statistical analysis they chose the right one for the data?
- Are the results borderline?
- If data was analysed by a judge, was it reanalysed by a different judge?

What does it mean?

- What do the authors claim their results mean?
- Are their results in line with other researchers' results?
 - If not, do the authors provide an explanation?

What does it mean: critique

- Do the conclusions really follow the results?
- Are there alternative explanations that the authors might have missed?
- Did the authors forget to link their results to other research or miss any research that is similar to theirs?
- Are there limits to the study that the authors did not mention?

What about the introduction?

- Are there any studies in the introduction that sound like they are pertinent to your research?

What about the introduction: critique

- Are there any important studies that are missing?
- Are there studies that shouldn't be there?
- Does the hypothesis or the question flow from the studies that are presented?

Other critiques

- General writing problems
 - Typographical errors
 - Difficult to understand
 - Bad word choice
- Tables and Figures
 - Understandable titles, axes
 - Data presentation, colours
 - Legends