

Scientific Writing Qualities

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Brevity—shortness or conciseness of expression [*unless it is at the expense of clarity*].

- limit unnecessary nouns, use verbs;
- use active voice (subject + verb + object);
- avoid vague words;

- limit jargon and abbreviations (e.g., acronyms and initialisms);
- avoid nonstandard abbreviations;
- keep subjects and verbs close together in sentences;
- cut unnecessary words.

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Clarity—the state of being clear.

- write a clear purpose within a defined scope;
- use an informative title;
- use correct grammar and mechanics;

- write explicit topic sentences;
- use transitions and time marker words to show connections;
- forecast content to come (for longer works);
- use expected organization for grant.

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Simplicity—easy to understand.

- parallel structure and numbering for lists or items in a series;
- following expected structure for grant

- consistent organization and terminology used throughout the grant.

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Humanity—remember that humans are the readers.

- use person-first language or identity-first language;
- acknowledge intellectual labor ethically and accurately;

- cut unnecessary words
- commend effective phrases and sentences;
- use “among” patients or people (not “in”).