Academic writing:
process & desired outcome
+
DAT096 Writing tasks

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Outline

- Reading scientific papers

- Writing scientific papers

  - The writing process

- The intended outcome

  - HISS criteria

- Feedback on your half-time report

- Documentation

Reading a scientific paper

- Start by reading this blog post, at least the first part:

- http://www.sciencemag.org/careers/2016/03/how-seriously-read-scientific-paper

- I have paper copies too if you prefer.

- Read at least the first part "How do you approach reading a paper"

Discuss in groups

- What was new to you in the first section of the blog post, if anything?

- Any thoughts about what to think about when you **write** an academic text?

Conclusion

- Scientific/academic papers are NOT read in linear order.

- The linear order help readers find the information they seek.

- Conventions!

Writing process

1. Pre-writing

2. Drafting

3. Editing

4. Proofreading

5. Publishing

1. Prewriting. What? Why?

- Describe experiment

- Outline theory

- Summarize study

- Argue for solution

- Get passing grade

- Teach students, colleagues

- Input for decisions

Will affect how you should write!

1. Prewriting. For whom?

- What level of background knowledge can you expect from reader?

  - Student: may be seeing contents for first time

  - Professor: should be familiar with it

  - Manager: will need reminding :-)

- <u>Every reader will be short of time!</u>

1. Prewriting. Organize!

- Collect material/references.

- Team issues:

  - Decide on common guidelines?

  - Who does what?

  - Feedback possibilities

2. Drafting

- When you put "the pen" on the paper.

- Does not have to be full sentences to start with!

- Get something down on paper.

2. Drafting

- Develop a more cohesive text

- Organize thoughts

- Explain example/ideas

- Uncover transitions

- Discover central argument/points

- Elaborate on key ideas

Source: Strunk & White

3. Revising

- Find out what you really trying to say!

- Reorganize.

- Remove unnecessary parts.

- Check connections and flow.

4. Editing (proofreading)

- Unclear things?

- Consistency

- Spelling

- Abbreviations

- Repetitions

- Other errors.

HISS criteria

- H: Overall impression 20%

- I: Content & understanding 40%

- S: Structure 20%

- S: Language 20%

Groups of 4-5 persons

- Select one of the 4 sections of the HISS criteria

- Take 5-10 minutes to read through your section.

- Explain to each other what the section is about and how a perfect paper should be according to the criteria. (20 minutes)

Feedback on half-time report

- Separate document organised according to HISS criteria.

  - + extra comments on visuals

- Detailed comments also in your pdf.

- In-class session afterwards.

- About the feedback:

  - Short on time.

  - Feedback more on

How handle feedback?

- We give feedback on what you provide.

  - A more complete draft gets more useful comments.

- We are short on time:

  - Fix <u>all</u> instances of any problems or shortcomings we point out!

Documentation

- No end-user documentation

- Documentation aimed at other engineers who are to continue your work.

- Include test procedures and protocols