Scientific Communication

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Overview: writing and presentations are essential to your work
Your job as a scientist is 50% research
Your job as a scientist is 50% research, and 50% sharing what you’ve learned
Scientific communication focuses on sharing what you’ve discovered

Often, this comes in the form of:
- Conference presentations
- Journal articles
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  - Journal articles

But don’t forget:
  - Meetings
  - Skype interviews
  - E-mails/Correspondence
  - Press releases
  - Job applications
You can save time by streamlining your work process

Use summaries of:
- Meetings
- Skype interviews
- E-mails/Correspondence
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To prepare for:
- Conference presentations
- Journal articles
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Waiting until the deadline is an ineffective way to write or present well.
To be good at something, you need to practice - so don’t wait until deadline day.
Checking in: everybody with me so far?
Regular practice makes the road to your deadline smoother

Combine:
Positive experiences of writing
Good conditions for concentration
Training tools
Daily writing tasks + their results
Database of resources for writing day
Example exercise 1
So you get the following writing assignment:

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Break the writing task into smaller pieces

Here are the questions you need to answer to write an executive summary of your current work for a grant report.

What is the basic problem?
What is your specific purpose or objective?
How does this problem fit into the bigger picture of your field?
How was the work done (test methods or means of investigation)?
What was found (results, conclusions, recommendations)?
Let’s choose one of these questions:

Here are the questions you need to answer to write an executive summary of your current work for a grant report.

What is the basic problem?
What is your specific purpose or objective?
**How does this problem fit into the bigger picture of your field?**
How was the work done (test methods or means of investigation)?
What was found (results, conclusions, recommendations)?
Take this smaller writing task and break it into even smaller steps

How does this problem fit into the bigger picture of your field?
A smaller writing task is more do-able

How does this problem fit into the bigger picture of your field?

What are ways you can approach answering this question?
A smaller writing task is more do-able

How does this problem fit into the bigger picture of your field? Possible approaches to answering this:

Summary of ideas from big names or landmark papers

Timeline of development of this problem

How is this sub-field described by popular scientific media?
Choose *one* small step from the previous slide and write a *plan* for how to achieve it; and estimate how much time these steps will take.

Pay attention!

Do not write the answer to the question – write out the *steps* for achieving it that includes how much time you think it will take.
Even a Flaming Baked Alaska cake uses a recipe.

Your writing project needs one, too.
The “0 draft”: a strategy that makes your project do-able and saves everyone’s time
Most of what you write really shouldn’t be shared with anyone – it’s a “0 draft”

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A “0 draft” can be written at any time, even when the data isn’t complete.
Example exercise 2
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So it becomes “normal” to write or speak about your work.
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5 minutes total.
Do not pick up your pencil/pen; do not stop typing.
Do not go back and correct anything.
If you don’t know the word, use your native language or just skip it.
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Start writing now. Topic: Detail as much as you can about a presentation you heard in this School

5 minutes total.
Do not pick up your pencil/pen; do not stop typing.
Do not go back and correct anything.
If you don’t know the word, use your native language or just skip it.
Daily exercise, like planning and free writing, will prepare you for writing the first draft. And it will make writing a normal part of your process, which means you’ll have confidence in what you’re doing.
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And you’ll develop skills for communicating what you do with anyone you meet.
Thank you!