

Effective Scientific Writing: Process and Product

Dr. Katherine Tiede (k.tiede@alumni.utoronto.ca)

Goals: This online workshop gives you tools to craft scientific text (i.e., proposal, paper and thesis) that meets the needs and expectations of your readers. We consider (1) the product: how to meet the requirements of concision, clarity, coherence, and persuasion at the English sentence, sentence to sentence, paragraph and discourse levels, and (2) the process: how to move from data to story, to motivate yourself to write, and to draft and revise to create clarity and flow in your writing.

- understanding the writing process and your writing style. Overcoming writer's block and procrastination; making writing a habit.
- learning how to read your writing as a reader will and thereby meet their needs and expectations at all levels of text (word, sentence, sentence to sentence, paragraph and beyond). Managing reader energy consumption.
- tools to craft your draft and find your storyline or golden thread: freewriting, outlining, speedwriting, storyboarding, and reverse engineering text.
- how to write clear and concise sentences that communicate your ideas and persuade your readers.
- solving flow problems: creating smooth texts that guide readers from sentence to sentence, paragraph to paragraph, and section to section.
- strategies for revising: diagnosing problems and getting and giving feedback.
- contrasting weak and strong scientific writing and turning weak into strong. Common shortcomings and how to avoid them.

Scheduling: The online workshop (Zoom) takes place over 4 afternoon sessions (1:00-5:00 CEST) for a total of 16 hours. The workshop works best with 2 sessions one week and 2 sessions the following week or the week thereafter.

Workshop Activities: PowerPoint presentation, discussion, pair and group work, text analysis and revision activities, self and peer review, and writing exercises.

Workshop Materials: Participants receive a schedule and script approximately one week before the first session. Handouts are provided during the workshop.

- Approximately two weeks before the first session, I email participants and ask them to briefly tell me about their work, their writing challenges, and topics important to them.
- I also ask participants to send a PDF of a published paper in their field of research. The paper should not be their own work or that of someone at the University of Vienna.
- Participants are asked to bring a sample of their own writing (draft and/or final form) for self and, if they wish, peer review.

DoSChem students: for free