Scientific writing and graphics
Autumn 2017
ESS/ATMS 519, Ocean 518

Instructors:
Stephen Warren, ATG 524, 543-7230, sgw@uw.edu
Ed Waddington, ATG 715, 543-4585, edw@uw.edu

Website:  http://courses.washington.edu/ess519/

Schedule:
October 3  Basic writing skills
Gopen & Swan (1990); Orwell (1946); McPhee (2013)

October 10  What’s wrong with how scientists write
Maddox (1986, 1990); Gregory (1992); Avery (1996); Leather (1996);
Camba (2000); Knight (2003); Powell (2012);
Montgomery, Chapter 1; Greene, Chapter 1.
Stylistic disagreements (editorials from The Economist)

October 17  How the mind reads.  McIntyre (1997)
Assignment – writing an AGU abstract

October 24  (1) Student critiques of each other’s AGU abstracts
(2) Principles of scientific writing
Booth, Chapter 1; McDonnell (2017)
Assignment – make a story-board for a paper and share with a partner

October 31  Principles of scientific writing
Greene, Chapters 2-11; Montgomery, Chapters 2-5

November 7  Student discussion of each other’s paper story-board

November 14 Graphs.  Cleveland, Chapters 1-2; Cleveland & McGill (1985).
Assignment – make a figure for a peer-reviewed publication and a figure
for a powerpoint presentation, and share with a class partner

November 21 Graphs.  Student critiques of each other’s journal figures

November 28 Graphs.  Student critiques of each other’s powerpoint slides

December 5 Authorship and acknowledgement, and other ethical matters
Several letters and editorialis from Nature

Books:

General writing

Scientific writing

Graphs

Proposals

Grammar and usage
Pinker, S., 2014: *Telling right from wrong*. Chapter 6 of *The Sense of Style*.
Short articles assigned:

for Week 1, October 3


for Week 2, October 10


Greene, R.L., 2017 (alias Johnson): Everybody has their opinion. [Singular ‘they’] Economist, 1 April, p. 78.


for Week 3, October 17

McIntyre, M.E., 1997: Lucidity and science, I: Writing skills and the pattern perception hypothesis. Interdisciplinary Science Reviews, 22, 199-216.
Additional articles (not assigned for class discussion).
[Most are from the “Careers” section at the back of Nature every week.]

Writing


Reviewing


Proposal writing


Job search


Living