

Bio 1102 – Science Writing Assignment Workshop - handout

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Key Points to Keep in Mind

- Relevance
- Content (your understanding of the material & analysis of it)
- Progress (of your learning)
- Sources (external research)
- Proof Reading (grammar, spelling, etc. – take the time to revise, it counts!)

Quoting, Paraphrasing, & Summarizing

- Quoting – With quotation marks, using the author’s exact words in your paper
- Paraphrasing – Without using quotation marks, putting the author’s point in your own words, usually more succinctly.
- Summarizing – Without using quotation marks, briefly stating the main idea in your own words.

Remember – Give authors credit for all three!!

CSE (Council of Science Editors Citations) Name/Year Format

(Jones 2011)

(Jones 2011, p 34)

(Jones and Briggs 1996)

Jones’ sequence of studies (2008, 2010a, 2010b, 2011)

A number of studies (Jones and Briggs 1996; Vandall 2011; Greggs 2002) have shown...

(Jones 1986, cited in Forbes 1994)

Note: the above in-text citations were taken from the CSE site

http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/DocCBE_NameYear_Intext.html

Source Criticism

Consider bias, source, audience, web domain, etc.

Sound vs. Sketchy – Libraries are great, and so are online journals, but be careful about websites.

Rule of Thumb – look for *their* citations. See if you can trace the author’s steps to their information.



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Writing Style Tips

- Be clear & concise, use precise words [see the handout on power verbs at http://averypoint.uconn.edu/ACweb/Resources/Power_verbs.pdf]
- Read your drafts out loud - you'll catch a lot of your own errors
- Make Reverse Outlines - write out a skeleton outline of your draft, to check your organization
- List your transitions - make a bulleted list of the first few words of each paragraph, to check transitions
- Check your paragraphs - bullet your sentences to check sentence length

Active vs. Passive Voice

For each sentence, write P or A in front of the sentence to identify whether it is in passive or active voice. Then if the sentence is passive, turn it into an active sentence; if the sentence is active, write it as a passive sentence.

1. Students from many different places, including London, Toronto, the US, and the Netherlands, will read this sentence.
2. There is a great deal of grammar expertise possessed by the members of this class.
3. The new budget has been opposed by skunks and squirrels alike.

Use Your Resources! 😊

- Academic Center resources: <http://averypoint.uconn.edu/ACweb/WLinks.htm>
- Use the Academic Center Tutors!
- Use your Professor's feedback!

More questions? Contact the Avery Point Academic Center at 860-405-9058 or email us at apac@uconn.edu.



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