

Good writing habits (a.k.a. Dr. T's Pet Peeves)

Start writing early. No one does their best work at the last minute. Give yourself enough time to set your paper down for a day or two, then carefully proofread it again. *Start with an outline* to organize your thoughts.

Carefully follow instructions in the online handout "*Scientific Report Writing*" and **McMillan (2006, 2012)**.

Proofread your paper. Proof your paper at least 2-3 times. Get someone else to proof read your paper.

Check spelling and grammar. Your research really peeked my interest. (rather than piqued)

Do not use quotes.... This is rarely, if ever, done in scientific works. Some students use mostly quotes, but this is nothing more than "lazy writing" and unacceptable.

Capitalize and italicize species names properly... *Helicobacter pylori* were classified as a known carcinogen in 1994 by the International Agency for Research on Cancer. Never capitalize the species epithet (*pylori*).

Abbreviate genus name after the first usage, unless at the beginning of a sentence.

Do not begin sentences with numerals or abbreviations; either spell it out or reword the sentence (better).

Use exact CSE style for in-text citations and in the Literature Cited section. If confused, ask your instructor.

Cite your source in the first or second sentence used of a paragraph; don't wait until the end of a paragraph. But don't cite the same source every sentence; once per paragraph is fine unless you cite more than one source in that paragraph. Not citing your sources in the text is plagiarism. If confused, ask your instructor.

Cite articles by the author(s), and year, not by title. Alphabetize by first author's last name. Use the number-year system.

Text citations usually come at the end of a sentence, inside the period.

Don't be vague... There are studies that show high prevalence of *H. pylori* in developing countries may be linked to a high occurrence of gastric cancer in certain populations. Cite these specific studies.

Adhere to your word limit. It is often harder to write a short assignment than a longer one.

Don't write details about methods/materials, unless it is critical for interpreting the results. In a short review paper, focus on the results, implications and overall relevance rather than describing the details of the methods.

Spell out numbers less than 10, unless they are part of a list or another word/phrase, or have units. Always spell out a number at the beginning of a sentence, or reword the sentence to avoid starting with the number.

Define abbreviations the first time used, unless they are common terms (e.g. DNA, PCR)

List all sources cited in the text in your Literature Cited section. **Cite all sources** in your Literature Cited section in the text. Literature Cited means just that, it is cited; this is not a Bibliography or References section.

Figures below – tables above. Figure titles go below the figure; table titles go at the top of a table.

Organize your paper into sections with appropriate headings to help organize your thoughts and to assist the reader.

Write in the passive voice (The ecological implications are discussed...), rather than the active voice (I will discuss the...).