

Communicating Science

“Professional Communication” & The Academic Paper



Questions we'll answer...

- What is “professional” communication?
- Where do you find academic papers?
- Why are academic papers important?
- How do you read an academic paper?
- How do you interpret what you read?
- How do you structure an academic paper?
- How do you plan, write & edit a paper?



“Professional” Communication

The first scientific journals (19th century)

The scientific journals and the concept of “peer review”

Science communicators and peer-reviewed journals

- Sources
- Targets





Libraries? Databases? Online?

*Where do you
find academic
papers?*

Features of academic writing...

- The objective of academic writing is to inform (not entertain)
- The writing style is formal.
- All facts and figure are precise & accurate.
- The presentation is objective rather than subjective.
- Academic writing follows style conventions.



Can you differentiate among the following...?

A bibliography

A reference list

An annotated bibliography

A literature review



What is “style” in academic writing?

- MLA style
- Chicago Manual of Style
- Turabian style
- APA style



Reading the academic paper

- The author(s)
- The audience
- The sources
- The thesis
- The structure (types of articles)
- The literature review
- Limitations & delimitations
- Support for the argument
- Clarity of conclusions



Dr. Keshav's three-pass approach...

- First pass
 - Title, abstract, intro
 - Sub-headings
 - Conclusions
 - References
- Second pass
 - Figures, tables
 - Markings
- Third pass
 - For full understanding



Writing the (scholarly) research paper...

- Choose your topic.
- Do some preliminary research.
- Develop a 'thesis' statement.
- Prepare an outline.
- Complete your research.
- Write your first draft.
- Do a substantive edit.
- Rewrite.
- Copyedit.

