

Manuscript and Proposal Composition

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Office Hours By appointment

Description:

A regular composition workshop that guides students through the process of writing two scientific documents.

Goals:

Students should be able to identify content which is appropriate for specific scientific genres and audiences, and distribute content appropriately within the document.

Students should be able to generate publication quality figures and captions.

Students should be able to identify the tools that work best for their word processing/figure generation/presentation needs, and become comfortable with generating a manuscript and proposal from beginning to end using these tools.

Students should recognize common errors in scientific figures and scientific writing and be comfortable with correcting them.

Students should be able to write up a manuscript on their research and proposal for a fellowship that is sufficiently complete and polished that revisions by their PI can begin with science.

In more plain language, please see :

[Manuscript & Proposal Composition : What is the point of this class?](#)

Requirements:

- 1) Complete a proposal for submission to a specific fellowship program OR a detailed plan for your qualifying exam proposal.
- 2) Complete a polished draft of a short (2-3 p, 1-2 figures) manuscript on your research, that could be submitted as a letter to a "workhorse" or lower impact journal in your field.
- 3) Complete the checklists that will help you develop a toolbox to complete 1 and 2.

Grading:

Complete everything by the due date and you'll receive an A.

If you can't complete something by the due date, let me know, and we'll arrange something. If you don't, you will not receive an A in the course.

If your PI thinks any tasks/deadlines are unrealistic or unreasonable I am more than happy to discuss it with them!

Meetings:

We will meet 7 times, for about two hours each.

Session	Topic	Due BY CLASS time			Date
		General Toolbox	Manuscript	Proposal	
1	The Point; Paper Diagramming; Image file formats; Publication Quality Figures I				Thursday September 16
2	Publication Quality Figures II; Scientific Genres; Manuscript vs Proposals; Posters and Presentations	Checklist 1	Revised Results Figures, with Captions		Thursday September 30
3	Literature Searching; Types of Ignorance; Citation Etiquette	Checklist 2	Scope of Minimanuscript		Thursday October 14
4	Architecture of a scientific manuscript; Introductions; Methods	Checklist 3			Thursday October 28
5	Peer Feedback on Introductions; Building a results pillar; Specific Aims.	Checklist 4	Draft of Introduction. Draft of Methods.		Thursday November 11
6	Peer Feedback on Revisions and Results Sections; Structure of an abstract.	Meet with PI about revisions and Specific Aims.	Draft of Results (1 Pillar only). Revision I of Methods & Introduction.	Draft of Specific Aims Outline or Draft of Preliminary results	Thursday November 25
7	Structure of Conclusions and Front Matter. Peer Feedback on Abstracts. Resolutions for after the class.	Checklist 5	Draft of Abstract. Revision I of Results Pillar. Revision II of Introduction.	Outline of Background and Approach	Thursday December 9
	Final		Complete version of mini-manuscript.	Revised Specific Aims. Complete outline of proposal. Members of your Committee.	