Tips for Good Scientific Writing

- **Use correct grammar**, including complete sentences, punctuation, etc.
- **Use consistent verb tense.**
- **Be accurate** with your choice of words.
- **Be concise. Be clear.** There is almost always a shorter, clearer way.
- **Be wary of passive voice.** It can be longer and less clear (of whose doing the action).
- **Avoid redundancy**, except on rare occasions to emphasize.
- **Make important objects nouns and important actions verbs.** Do not “noun-ify” verbs unless it is really the action itself that is the main topic.
- **Good lead sentences** introduce the topic of the paragraph and sometimes help link ideas from the previous paragraph.
- **Convey one idea to the next in a logical order so your story progresses forward.** Do not back track. This is true within individual sentences, paragraphs, and whole sections.
- **Use transitional words or phrases** to connect sentences or paragraphs. Transitions help clarify the relation between one sentence/paragraph to the next. E.g., “Thus”, “correspondingly”, “consequently”, “in contrast”, “however”, “despite”