

CovCo Writing Workshop

Session One: Introduction to Scientific Writing



Housekeeping



Workshop objectives

1. Learn how to draft all sections of a scientific manuscript
2. Prepare a first draft of a scientific manuscript
3. Initiated the process through which a draft manuscript becomes a published paper
4. Present an abstract to the Cross-Site team

Course structure

- Blue and Yellow sessions are for mentored working in pairs
- Green sessions are for
 - Lectures
 - Live editing
 - Mentored paired work
- Course resources will be shared via website
 - Lecture slides
 - Lecture videos
 - Templates
- Teams will collaborate via Dropbox

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Prior to the start on Monday, all groups must: a. Identified a target journal with help of senior mentor b. Have received access to dropbox	Work on methods	Work on discussion/introduction	Work on declarations/abstract	Provide and respond to peer review feedback. Work on cover letter
Lecture: Introduction to scientific writing	Lecture: Discussion	Live edit session:	Live edit session:	Live edit session:
Lecture: Results	Draft discussion points	Revise paper based on live edit session	Revise based on live edit session/senior mentors' feedback	Lecture: Steps to publication (formatting to journal specifications, suggesting reviewers, and responding to peer review)
Lecture: Methods				Create a log-in for your target journal, identify any additional pieces needed for submission.
Work on results	Lecture: Introduction	Lecture: Declarations	Lecture: Cover letter	
	Lecture: Plagiarism and references	Lecture: Abstract	Lecture: Peer Review	
Suggested meal break	Suggested meal break	Suggested meal break	Suggested meal break	Everyone is ready to present their abstracts at the next cross site meeting!
Work on methods	Work on discussion/introduction	Work on declarations/abstract	Provide and respond to peer review feedback. Work on cover letter	



Expectations

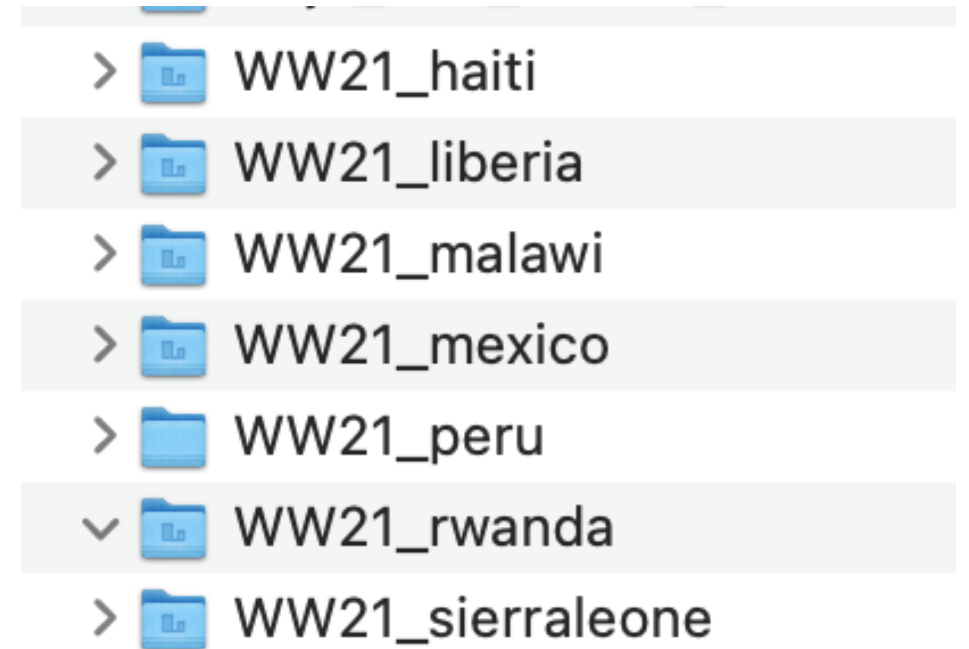
- **Everyone** attends all green zone times
- Everyone **works in pairs** during their assigned blue and yellow zone times
 - No Yellow Zone on Friday!
 - Keep focused – it is much easier to finish a paper with support from each other than on your own!!!
- If you cannot meet these expectations, discuss in advance with your senior mentor

CAT	GMT	EST/PST	CST
8:00	6:00	1:00	0:00
9:00	7:00	2:00	1:00
10:00	8:00	3:00	2:00
11:00	9:00	4:00	3:00
12:00	10:00	5:00	4:00
13:00	11:00	6:00	5:00
14:00	12:00	7:00	6:00
15:00	13:00	8:00	7:00
16:00	14:00	9:00	8:00
17:00	15:00	10:00	9:00
18:00	16:00	11:00	10:00
19:00	17:00	12:00	11:00
20:00	18:00	13:00	12:00
21:00	19:00	14:00	13:00
22:00	20:00	15:00	14:00
23:00	21:00	16:00	15:00
0:00	22:00	17:00	16:00
1:00	23:00	18:00	17:00
2:00	0:00	19:00	18:00
3:00	1:00	20:00	19:00



Dropbox

- Each team has a dedicated WW21 file
- Dropbox folders are for sharing and collaborating on **manuscripts, tables, and figures**
- **Do not share raw or cleaned data** via the WW21 Dropbox folders
 - Talk with Dale if this is an issue



File naming conventions

File names should be **specific, descriptive**, and include a **version or date number**

Bad file names:

- tables.xlsx
- paper_final.doc
- 18375627hfg13.pdf

Good file names:

- ww21_haiti_tables_v1.1.xlsx
- covid_kap_apzu_manuscript_15jan2021.doc
- Kamali_2021.pdf

Consider adding a “references” and “archive” folder to your Dropbox to stay organized.

RA’s – please help enforce good organization standards.

Scientific Writing



What is scientific communication?

- The art of sharing novel scientific findings with an audience with the hope of educating, inspiring, or informing change

Scientific communication

- The form of scientific communication depends on the audience

Audience	Common forms of communication
General public	Radio programs, television programs, newspapers, posters
Policy makers, implementers, and other stakeholders	Presentations, reports
Other researchers and scientists	Scientific writing, conference presentations

Types of scientific writing

- **Letters to the editor** – Short narratives that often provide commentary or call to action for a bigger problem
- **Short report/Lessons on the Field**-Short (<3000 words) paper highlighting program challenges/successes with data,
- **Original Research** - Structured full-length (~3000-5000 words) manuscripts describing the findings of a specific study or analysis
- **Review Articles** – Manuscripts that provide a summary of findings from other previously published original research articles

Structured Manuscripts

Title and Abstract: Summarizes your work

Introduction

- Highlights gaps in current scientific knowledge
- Explains the focus of your manuscript

Methods: Describes what you did in enough detail that someone else could reproduce your study

Results: Objectively share your findings, often using tables or graphs

Discussion

- Interprets your findings in the context of the literature and limitations
- Suggests scientific, clinical, or operational next steps

Declarations: Provides transparency to support ethical conduct of researcher



Tips for writing scientific manuscripts

- Sections can be written and read in different orders
 - **Reading order:** Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion,
 - **Writing order:** Results, Methods, Discussion, Introduction
- Use an **active voice**
 - Active voice: “We analyzed the data.”
 - Passive voice: “The data were analyzed.”
- Imagine you are writing for an educated non-expert
 - Sibling? Spouse? Classmate?

Tips to avoid writers block

- The best first draft is a done first draft.
- It is okay to start by writing in incomplete sentences and/or to start in a non-English language
- If you are stuck have one person speak their ideas out loud and the other type them down
- Do **not** copy and paste from other articles or websites– this can lead to plagiarism

Remember, the purpose of a scientific paper is to **communicate our science**

“The art of sharing novel scientific findings with an audience with the hope of educating, inspiring, or informing change”

We will share guidelines to help you communicate clearly so that you can share your results and make an impact.

