



## Tips for Writing

1. Use key rhetorical moves in scientific writing, especially when presenting others' views (Graff & Birkenstein)
  - a. Present prevailing theories
  - b. Explain methodologies
  - c. Summarize findings
2. State your own ideas in response to others (Graff & Birkenstein)
  - a. State of the science – what is known
  - b. Gaps in the state of the science - what is unknown
  - c. Proposed idea to resolve the gap or discover what is known
3. Remember that a paragraph usually has at least 3 sentences
  - a. One to introduce topic
  - b. At least one (usually more) to develop topic
  - c. At least one to conclude and make transition to next paragraph
  - d. Provide context for the reader before asking the reader to consider anything new (Gopen & Swan)
4. Understand how readers go about reading (Gopen & Swan)
  - a. Use the active voice (S&W)
  - b. Context on the left since we read from left to right; new, important information on the right
  - c. Place appropriate information already stated in the topic (left) position to link backward to previous information and provide context for new information going forward (Gopen & Swan)
  - d. Grammatical subject should be followed immediately by the verb
  - e. Material intended to be emphasized arrives at end of the sentence
  - f. Place person or thing whose “story” a sentence is telling at the beginning of the sentence in the topic position (Gopen & Swan)
5. Omit needless words – vigorous writing is concise (S&W)