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)