



Developing and Sharing Science-Specific Writing Resources

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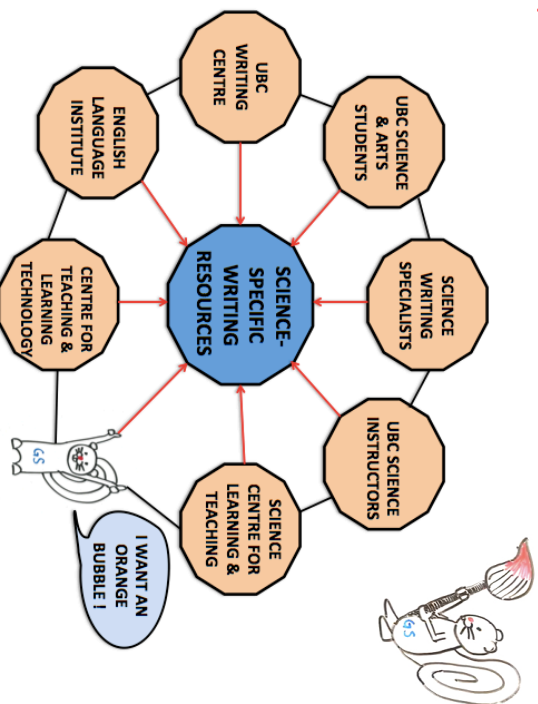


Our Mission

- 1 Develop science-specific writing resources for students, and associated teaching guides and materials for instructors
- 2 Use resources to teach students how to address specialist and non-specialist audiences (via technical reports, blogs, oral presentations, podcasts, videos and newspaper-style articles)
- 3 Encourage students to think critically and develop logical argumentation skills
- 4 Evaluate the impact that our resources are having on student writing skills at UBC (SCIE 113 and SCIE 300)
- 5 Create a website to share these resources with students and instructors globally

Who is Involved?

The Science-Specific Writing Resources team comprises students, faculty, educational strategists, writing specialists, and **cartoon squirrels...**



Our Resources and Their Impact

Grammar Squirrel and Her Writing Skills Videos

13 instructional Grammar Squirrel videos featuring different science-specific writing topics

All available to view on the UBC Science Writing YouTube channel

Guest appearances from 6 science writing experts

> 14,000 unique views

Incorporated into hands-on writing skills classes in SCIE 300

UBC students said:

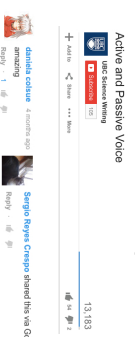
"I LOVED them! They were a great resource. Keep making them!"

"I like how the videos are short and succinct and that the main points are recapped at the end."

"The visuals are really funny and help bring it to life. It's actually fun to learn some of this stuff."



YouTube activity:



Our Other Resources and Their Impact

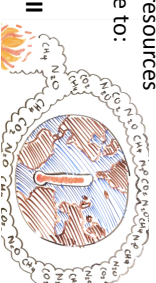
We have created:

- 4 Essay Writing Guides
- 3 Calibrated Peer Review Essays
- 7 In-Class Writing Skills Activities
- 3 versions of 7 Pre-Class Activities
- 3 versions of 7 Post-Class Activities
- 1 Writing Error Diagnostic Rubric
- 10 Instructional Tools/Guides
- 1 Universal Citation Tool

Now, we are creating:

- 1 UBC Science Writing website, to make all of these resources and more available to:

Students and instructors from all around the world



Writing Skills Activities

Student Feedback

~ 450 UBC students [SCIE 300] have now completed pre-, in- and post-class writing skills activities on:

- 1) Transitions and topic sentences,
- 2) Active vs. passive voice,
- 3) Numbers, units and abbreviations,
- 4) Descriptions
- 5) Succinct writing,
- 6) Journalistic writing,
- 7) Summarizing

"...this is something that writing paper after paper would not have taught you. This is a way to open up science to a wider range of people, just by using simple, but clear comparisons."

"... all of the writing lessons have been so helpful and I will be saving all notes for future reference."

"... I am now better able to distill the essence of a paper in a simple, yet meaningful way. I think I can easily carry this over to all of my courses."

Acknowledgements

We thank the **UBC Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund** for support in the 2012/13, 2013/14, and 2014/15 academic years, as well as the UBC Science Centre for Learning and Teaching and the UBC Centre for Teaching, Learning & Technology for in-kind contributions. We also thank the students and instructors who gave feedback and road-tested our materials and resources.

