

# Writing in Science & Medicine:

*The Investigator's Guide to  
Writing for Clarity and Style*



Principal  
Investigators  
Association™

# Table of Contents

A Note from the Publisher .....	2
Preface .....	4
<b>Chapter 1: The Causes of Obscurity in Scientific Writing.</b> .....	8
The Causes of Obscurity.....	9
Does the Standard of Writing Matter?.....	10
Clear Writing=Clear Thinking=Clear Writing.....	12
<b>Chapter 2: Concision and Misused Words and Terms.</b> .....	14
Concision, the Art of Being Concise.....	14
Jargon.....	20
Commonly Misused Words, Phrases.....	20
Redundancy and Metadiscourse.....	25
Other Redundancies in Writing.....	27
Exercises, Chapter 2.....	30
<b>Chapter 3: The Sentence—Short and Clear.</b> .....	32
Subjects and Verbs.....	32
Sentence Constructions.....	33
Nominalization—Turning Verbs Into Nouns.....	34
Passive and Active Voice.....	36
Tenses.....	38
Exercises, Chapter 3.....	40
<b>Chapter 4: The Paragraph—Organized and Coherent.</b> .....	43
The Importance of Paragraphs.....	43
Principles of Clear Paragraphs.....	44
Exercises, Chapter 4.....	50
<b>Chapter 5: Mechanics and Style</b> .....	53
Grammar Basics.....	52
Punctuation.....	56
Measures and Numbers.....	59
Format, Style, Punctuation of Units.....	62
Tables, Graphs, and Redundancy.....	69
Exercises, Chapter 5.....	73
<b>Chapter 6: Shape—Looking at the Whole.</b> .....	75
The Rules of Good Writing and Revision.....	75
Looking at the Big Picture: Significance, Impact, Innovation.....	81
Answers to Exercise, Chapter 2.....	87
Answers to Exercise, Chapter 3.....	88
Answers to Exercise, Chapter 4.....	89
Answers to Exercise, Chapter 5.....	90

"Writing in Science and Medicine: The Investigator's Guide to Writing For Clarity and Style" is published by Scientific Researchers Resources, Inc., 9990 Coconut Road, Suite 316, Bonita Springs, FL 34135 USA. Telephone: (800) 303-0129 ~ Fax: (239) 676-0146 ~ Email: [info@principalinvestigators.org](mailto:info@principalinvestigators.org) ~ Website: [www.principalinvestigators.org](http://www.principalinvestigators.org)

This guide is endorsed as a valuable tool for continuing professional development by Principal Investigators Association.

Retired Founder: Leslie C. Norins, MD, PhD

© 2013 Principal Investigators Association. The entire contents of this publication are protected by Copyright, worldwide. All rights reserved. Reproduction or further distribution by any means, beyond the paid customer, is strictly forbidden without written consent of Principal Investigators Association, including photocopying and digital, electronic, and/or Web distribution, dissemination, storage, or retrieval. Report violations in confidence; a \$10,000 reward is offered for information resulting in a successful prosecution. Economical rates for bulk or electronic purchases are available upon request; institutional inquiries welcome. Principal Investigators Association—as well as this report—is completely independent and not controlled by any government agency, organization or society, consultancy, contractor, or vendor.