

Title: Article editing workshop - Grad Student Seminar Series

Speakers: Emily Petroff, Maya Berger, Aldo Riello

Date: May 06, 2024 - 2:00 PM

URL: <https://pirsa.org/24040120>

Abstract: Zoom link

Writing Workshop

6 May, 2024

Emily Petroff & Maya Berger
Grants & Awards team

Emily's Background

- PhD in Astrophysics + 2 postdocs
- Brief (~2 year) career as project manager for a telescope collaboration
- Now: Associate Director, Strategic Partnerships, Grants & Awards @ PI
 - Government Relations, External Affairs, Partnerships
- Most of my writing experience is scientific articles for peer-reviewed journals
 - Some experience in science communication with articles for public-facing / popular science outlets
- I can help you with:
 - Structuring a journal article
 - Aiming for the right tone
 - Process for putting together a paper
 - Time management for writing



Emily's writing tips

- A good outline makes for a good paper
- Starting with getting the paper-ready figures can help with the writing process
- If you're struggling to write something in a way that sounds intelligent to you, write it the dumb way first
- Finding a writing buddy (or a writing group) can help when you're really stuck and don't want to write
- A thesaurus can certainly be a fantastic resource, but overly complex wording obfuscates the primary information and may result in undesired illegibility.
 - A thesaurus can be helpful, but if you hide your point in fancy language, your reader struggles.

General thought: ChatGPT is a tool. It might be something that can help you write. But in the end the voice and the words should be yours. People can tell when ChatGPT “delved” into the writing for you.

Maya's Intro

- Academic background in English & Philosophy
- Managed a team of research funding editors for a higher education publisher (~10 years)
- Chemistry Department Manager for a university (< 1 year)
- Freelance copyeditor & proofreader (~8 years)
- Now: Grants & Awards Officer @ PI
 - Identifying and preparing grant/award applications
- I can help you with:
 - Narrative flow, repetition, and cohesion in a paper
 - Spelling, grammar, and sentence structure
 - Checking citations for consistency and completeness
 - Consistency in writing style, level, tone, and formatting



Maya's writing tips

- **Start early and build in editing time**
 - Commit time to writing, and get something written, however rough, as soon as you can. (You can't edit a blank page.)
 - A second pair of eyes can help spot inconsistencies, typos, and places where your writing could be clearer.
- **Know your audience**
 - What's their level of technical knowledge? How much jargon is required, how much is too much? What message you want them to take away from your paper?
- **Cite your sources**
 - It gives your article credibility and demonstrates academic integrity.
- **Know your formatting requirements**
 - Your writing will be taken more seriously if you include all required sections, stick to word counts, etc.