

## PRESENTATION OF A RESEARCH PAPER

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After a prolonged, hard and sincere labour on a project, the research workers find themselves usually in an awkward and puzzling situation when they have to present their results. Even the best standard work go unnoticed or unrewarded if they have not been presented in an acceptable manner. The writing of the results for publication requires expertise which can be obtained by training and experience. The period of long experience can be shortened provided some guidelines are grasped sincerely. No sort of guidance or good and exhaustive lecture can substitute a sincere practice of writing, analysing critically, rewriting, editing and finalising the report.

Some of the guidelines have been prescribed/suggested from time to time by various authors but some of the important guidelines in this respect are quoted below.

C.S. Good in "The Principles and Practice of Clinical Trials " (1976) has suggested that, ----

i) The size of a writeup in a letter form should not exceed 400 words; a short report 600 words whereas original writings should not exceed more than 2000 words.

However, in a research publication, in the form of a thesis, there may be no limitation of 2000 words depending upon the nature of the job. But, still a comprehensive, concise and consolidated report is always preferred.

ii) All references, facts, ideas and data be assembled first, then a plan made. The first draft should be typed roughly in double space with wide margins and using a blue pencil. Several editions may be necessary before a final draft.

It is worth mentioning that the famous author Somerset Maugham revised his articles six

times before final print.

iii) The outlines of a report should be planned in the fashion ---

- a) Title : The title should be attractive, soft and descriptive. There should be no abbreviation or unnecessary words in the title.
- b) Introduction : Should be simple, attractive and informative. Usually introduction should not exceed 1/4th of the paper and should be confined to the theme of the paper.
- c) Material and methods : These should not be ambiguous, puzzling or non-conceivable.
- d) Results : It should be presented succinctly by presentation of facts by data tables and figures with normal value but no comments.
- e) Discussion with conclusion should essentially make a component of the report.
- f) Summary : Must be brief, clear and include essential points. The summary should be descriptive as well as informative or factual.
- g) Acknowledgement must include all those who have helped in the completion of the job and whose works have been referred to.

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- h) References : All references should be presented according to Harvard System.
- iv) Most of the thesis are rejected by publishers because ----
- They are too long.
  - Nothing original is reported.
  - The logic or validity of the result is doubtful.
  - They are written badly.
- v) To avoid faults in writing or rejection; Good has suggested ----
- to use one word for many words.
  - not to use superfluous statements.
  - not to use a sentence that shows difference of opinion e.g.  
"I have no hesitation in saying"  
"Although certainly not a new finding"  
"It has been proposed that",  
"It is interesting to note that",  
"It is the purpose of my paper",  
"It should be emphasized that"---
  - sentences should be short, sentences of 20 words or less are the best.
  - use active passage than passive passage.

In a very interesting manner, Elmer W. Shaw outlined. "Ten Commandments" based on the view expressed by various speakers on the subject in the Conference of Scientific Editorial Problems which was published in Science, 15 April 1955.

The "Ten Commandments" issued by him are :

- Thou shall remember thy readers all the days of life; for without readers thy words are as naught.
- Thou shall not forsake the time honoured virtue of simplicity.
- Thou shall not abuse the third person passive.
- Thou shall not daugh thy particples, neither shall thou misplace thy modifires.
- Thou shall not commit monotomy.
- Thou shall not cloud thy message with a misasm of Technical jargon.
- Thou shall not hide the fruits of thy research beneath excess verbiage, neither shall thou obscure thy conclusions with vague generalities.

- Thou shall not resent helpful advice from thy editors, reviewers and critics.
- Thou shall consider also the views of the layman, for his is an insight often unknown to technocrats.
- Thou shall write and rewrite without tiring, for such is the key to improvement.

Based upon the suggestions, the author of this paper has drafted alphabets "do nots" which will be amusing to the readers. it is suggested that one should avoid these presentation of results/scientific reports.

- Ambiguity, Anger, Anonimity
- Bias, Blasphemy, Buoyancy, Boasting and Boredoms.
- Callousness, Clumsiness and Cunningness, Carelessness and Contradiction.
- Derogatory remarks, Dragging of statements, Direlections, Dubious statements and Drumbeating.
- Exaggerations, Euphoria, Erudity and Evasiveness.
- Flattering (authors), Fluttering (subject matter), Fraudulence (with topic or authors), Foxing (deceiving statement) and Fishing (random picking of information from others)
- Generalisation (over); Gambling (with ideas), Grumbling (against others) Gorgousness.
- Habituation, Hasty decisions and Haloness (about self or one's own work).
- Impulse, Intuition and Imaging.
- Jabbling (thrust ideas abruptly), Jacking (speaking high of a statement finding), Jargonning.
- Knavery (trickery), Kleptos (stealing other's work), Knotting, and Kidding (around the readers audience)
- Larking (circling around one thing), Lamponing (venomous satire on an indivi-

- dual), Languishing (drooping, exhausting or sentimental statements).
- M Malice, Monotony and Muffling (hiding some truth).
- N Noumenon (opposite of a phenomenon), Nuts (tough, difficult to understand terms), Nepotism (to a colleague or a favourite's work)
- O Obscuring (concealing facts), Ostentation, Oxymoron (a figure of speech in which a phrase is made by combining two opposite ideas eg. falsely true, cruelly kind etc.).
- P Precariousness, Propaganda, Prophecy and pervert statements.
- Q Quackery, Quelling (impressing forcibly) and Quizzing.
- R Rambling (writing incoherently, without a definite route); Rapping (hurrying away to the next)
- S Satyrism, Savagery (inhuman, wild or uncivilized comments), Skewing (off the straight, obliquely).
- T Tugging (to pull with efforts), Trumpery (anything shown but of a little value), Treachery (Inflicting injurious statement towards other's work).
- U Uppishness (self assertiveness), Usurping (seize wrongfully), Uncertainty.
- V Vagueness, Verbiage and Vindictiveness.
- W Wagling (obtaining by deception or trickery any information or data), Warping (twisting permanently), Writhing (rolling around a point).
- X Xenomania (desire for anything foreign), Xanthopsia (looking everything yellow), Xenogamy (cross fertilization ie. mixing different thoughts findings together).
- Y Yammering (talking incoherently), Yapping (to chatter incessantly), Yiddish (mixture of dialects), Yegging (robbing of other's ideas)
- Z Zealatory (Fantasy), Zeugma, (use of a word with two others when only one is appropriate), Zombie (soulless corpse given (enlarging ideas) appearance of life by witchcraft), Zooming.

### KNOWLEDGE

"Pleasure is a shadow, wealth is vanity, and power a pageant; but knowledge is ecstatic in enjoyment, perennial in fame, unlimited in space, and infinite in duration".

*De Witt Clinton*