

Visiting Scholar Program

Writing Wizardry:

Trimming length without cutting content



Trimming length without cutting content

Have you already used the big tools? 

- Pare content to essentials for reviewers
- Get feedback from colleagues on content
- Use figures and tables to summarize details
- Switch to numbered references

Trimming length without cutting content

Tip #1: Shun the “-tion”



Stronger and shorter: “We **estimate...**”

Weaker and longer: “We provide **an estimation...**”

Trimming length without cutting content



Tip #1: Shun the “-tion”

Stronger and shorter: “We **recommend...**”

Weaker and longer: “We **are making
recommendations on...”**

Trimming length without cutting content



Tip #1: Shun the “-tion”

Weaker and longer: “Our team undertook an evaluation of these results.”

Stronger and shorter?

Trimming length without cutting content



Tip #1: Shun the “-tion”

Weaker and longer: “Our team undertook an evaluation of these results.”

Stronger and shorter?

“Our team evaluated these results.”

Try it!

Proteins are fascinating devices for the performance of cellular functions, including the provision of structural support, the transportation of metabolites, and the catalysis of biochemical reactions. A protein's 3D structure defines the determination of its function and properties. Once we determine the involvement of its structure, the major challenge is to find the relationship of that structure to biochemical and physical data, for the evaluation of how the protein functions.

Trimming length without cutting content



Tip #2: Give the action to strong verbs

Stronger and shorter: “This experiment **measures...**”

Weaker and longer: “This experiment **will involve measuring...**”

Trimming length without cutting content



Tip #2: Give the action to strong verbs

Stronger and shorter: “We **interpret** these results from...”

Weaker and longer: “We **make these interpretations** of results from...”

Trimming length without cutting content



Tip #2: Give the action to strong verbs

Weaker and longer: “We plan to engage in interviewing patients.”

Stronger and shorter?

Trimming length without cutting content



Tip #2: Give the action to strong verbs

Weaker and longer: “We plan to engage in interviewing patients.”

Stronger and shorter?

“We will interview patients.”

Try it!

Doing studies of the effects on proteins of site-directed mutagenesis has a tendency to provide clues that are indicative of how small alterations in structure are able to correlate with changes in functional properties. The eventual goal of this work is to make progress in designing and synthesizing proteins that serve to perform new and desirable functions. Knowledge of structure-function relationships is still insufficient to be able to apply the process of designing new proteins with reference to a rational basis.

Trimming length without cutting content



Tip #3: Declutter

- Remove filler words e.g. very, actually, generally
- Remove throat-clearing e.g. in fact, needless to say, it appears that, in regards to, with reference to, the amount of, the field of...

Trimming length without cutting content



Tip #3: Declutter

- Remove redundant words e.g. successful solution, past history
- Remove statements of generic, common knowledge e.g. “Cancer is a serious health problem in Canada.”

Trimming length without cutting content

Tip #3: Declutter



Weaker and longer: “On these grounds, our study’s unique contribution to the literature lies in its emphasis on accountability.”

Stronger and shorter?

Trimming length without cutting content

Tip #3: Declutter



Weaker and longer: “On these grounds, our study’s unique contribution to the literature lies in its emphasis on accountability.”

Stronger and shorter?

“Our study contributes uniquely to the literature by emphasizing accountability.”

Try it!



In general, enzymes are proteins catalyzing biological reactions that usually would not otherwise occur at perceptible rates. In particular, they are comparatively specific with reference to both the reaction that they catalyze and the substrates that they actually act on. Indeed, precise knowledge with respect to an enzyme's 3D structure is a particularly essential requirement with reference to understanding enzyme catalysis. In fact, the field of crystallography effectively, we hope, gives direct visualization of these structural relationships.

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Bonus tip:

Use shorter words

<http://ironicsans.com/thdrs/>

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Questions on the Visiting Scholar
Program?

Suggestions on topics for events and
resources?

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