WRITING
FOR THE STATISTICAL SCIENCES

Don Ylvisaker
SOME GOOD NEWS

YOU CAN GET HELP FROM VARIOUS SOURCES TOWARD PRODUCING GOOD WRITING - BOOKS, ON-LINE COURSES, WORKSHOPS(?) COLLEAGUES.
SOME BAD NEWS

IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT YOU WILL EVER COME TO ENJOY THE WRITING PROCESS
SOME GOOD NEWS

YOU CAN ENJOY THE FRUITS OF YOUR LABOR IN PRODUCING GOOD WRITING . . . ESPECIALLY, READERS APPRECIATE GOOD WRITING.
WRITING
IN THE STATISTICAL SCIENCES
IN 2016
GROWTH OF STATISTICS JOURNALS

WITH 150 JOURNALS AT 60 EACH, THERE ARE SOME 9,000 ARTICLES PUBLISHED EVERY YEAR; COLLABORATIVE JOURNALS AND BOOK CHAPTERS ADD MORE. THERE ARE MANY OUTLETS FOR YOUR WRITINGS.
INVITATIONS TO PUBLISH

Research in the Mathematical Sciences – consider publishing here 11/14
Science Research Association – invitation for free article publication 11/08
Asian Online Journals (nine in total) – invitation to submit 11/05
Advances in Pure Mathematics – invitation to submit 11/05
International Journal of Information Research and Review – call for papers 11/02
International Conference on Operations Research and Statistics – call for papers 10/27
Journal of Statistical Research – Invitation to submit 10/26
American Review of Mathematics and Statistics – call for papers 10/26
International Journal of Business Management and Commerce 10/24
Spring Journal of Biological and Medical Sciences – invitation to submit 10/15
  Advanced Research Journal of Biochemistry and Biotechnology
  Advanced Research Journal of Plant and Animal Sciences
  Global Journal of Environmental Science and Technology
  Global Journal of Environmental Science and Technology
  International Journal of Bacteriology, Virology and Immunology
  Global Research Journal of Public Health and Epidemiology
  International Journal of Medical and Clinical Sciences
TAKing stock

When you have a “story” to tell, take some time to consider

the content

how to make the telling easy on you*

the audience

how to make it easy on the reader**
STRATEGIES FOR WRITING

WRITE WHEN YOU THINK YOU KNOW SOMETHING

WRITE WHEN YOU KNOW SOMETHING

WRITE WHEN YOU ARE SURE YOU KNOW SOMETHING
STYLES OF WRITING

EXPOSITORY

persuasive
STYLES OF WRITING

The Royal Society of London, founded in 1660, extracted from its members

“... a constant resolution, to reject all the amplifications, digressions, and swellings of style... preferring the language of artisans, countrymen, and merchants, before that, of wits, or scholars”

Thomas Sprat (1667)
STYLE NOTES

RESIST THE URGE TO RAMBLE ON, YOU RISK BORING YOUR READERS

REPETITION IS BORING, REPETITION IS BORING, REPETITION IS BORING . . .

RESPECT YOUR READERS
“An additive multiplicative mean model for marker data contingent on recurrent event with an informative terminal event”

“Likelihood-based inference for mixed-effects models with censored response using the Multivariate-t distribution”

“A 250-year argument: Belief, Behavior and the Bootstrap”

“Ethics and the statistical use of prior information”
ABSTRACT

A SHORT STORY

(TOLD WITHOUT TECHNICAL DETAILS)

(and compellingly)
INTRODUCTION

A SHORT STORY

(KEEP TECHNICALITIES DOWN, AS POSSIBLE)

(AND THE LENGTH)
THEORY AND METHODS

ORGANIZATION COUNTS

STATE YOUR CENTRAL POINTS SUCCINCTLY

FORGO DISCUSSION OF HOW YOU CAME TO THEM

FORGO CONTRASTS WITH RELATED WORK OF OTHERS
SIMULATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

THESE ARE REPORTS ON WHAT HAS BEEN DONE, WRITE THEM IN THE PAST TENSE.

LET THE TABLES AND FIGURES PROVIDE SOME OF THEIR OWN STORY.

GENERALLY, CHOOSE BETWEEN

1) “APPLICATIONS TO DATA”
2) “APPLICATIONS TO REAL OLD DATA”
DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION

• HAVE SOMETHING NEW TO SAY IF YOU INCLUDE ONE

• A RECITATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE WORK IS NOT A DISCUSSION OR A CONCLUSION

• FIT YOUR WORK INTO A BROADER CONTEXT WITHOUT REPEATING THE INTRODUCTION

• THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO NAME NEW AVENUES TO PURSUE
REFERENCES

HOLD REFERENCES TO SENSIBLE LIMITS

EMPLOY REVIEW ARTICLES AS AVAILABLE

LIST REFERENCES IN A UNIFORM (JOURNAL) STYLE