***Rules for Scientific Writing***

• Interest, inform, and persuade the reader

• Write for your reader and write clearly

• Eliminate unnecessary redundancy

• Avoid digressions

• Don't over explain and avoid overstatement

• Avoid unnecessary qualifiers

• Use consistent tenses

• Use the precise word

• Simpler words are preferred over complex words and use concrete words and examples

• Simpler sentences are preferred over more complicated sentences

• Use the active voice (except generally in methods)

• Make sure the subject and verb agree

• Use affirmative rather than negative constructions

• Avoid use of the indefinite "this"

• Use transitions

• Cite sources as well as findings

• Proofread your paper carefully; spell check does not catch everything; "there" is spelled

correctly but not if you meant "their".