

SCIENTIFIC TEXT

1/ Concept and Definition

A text is a coherent set of statements to communicative purpose through signs. The scientific word, in turn, means what belongs or relates to science (i.e. the set of methods and techniques for organizing information).

That said, a scientific text is based on the use of scientific language. It is a type of text that uses clear language, with a not too complex syntax and phrases ordered, the objective being that the information is not poorly interpreted (these texts should therefore be accurate).

Write a scientific text, to avoid ambiguous terms so that the meaning of the words is unique, with a single meaning and only one served. To do this, it must minimize any kind of subjectivity and rely on concrete information rather than opinions.

The aim is that the scientific text is understood by any person belonging to the target group to which it is addressed. It must aspire to universality using a specific terminology while allowing for precise and accurate translations in other languages where the erroneous interpretations have no place.

The scientific texts present statements that are subject to an important check to ensure that their information is credible and real. This kind of text is generally produced in a scientific community to communicate and demonstrate the progress achieved in research work. Through scientific disclosure magazines, these contents reach as many receivers although these publications as rather tend to use a language accessible to the average reader (general public).

2/ Characteristics of good scientific writing:

Good scientific writing is:

a/ Clear : it avoids unnecessary detail;

b/ Simple : it uses direct language, avoiding vague or complicated sentences. Technical terms and jargon are used only when they are necessary for accuracy;

c/ Impartial : it avoids making assumptions (Everyone knows that ...) and unproven statements (It can never be proved that ...). It presents how and where data were collected and supports its conclusions with evidence;

d/ Structured logically : ideas and processes are expressed in a logical order. The text is divided into sections with clear headings;

e/ Accurate : it avoids vague and ambiguous language such as about, approximately, almost;

f/ Objective : statements and ideas are supported by appropriate evidence that demonstrates how conclusions have been drawn as well as acknowledging the work of others.

3/ The purpose of a scientific text:

The purpose of a scientific text is **to inform**, or **to provide** an explanation. When the author wants to provide an explanation for a scientific phenomenon, they will clearly explain a process or a scientific concept. ... Texts that provide an explanation are written simply to present information to the reader.

4/ Scientific text analysis:

1. Begin by reading the introduction, not the abstract.
2. Identify the big question.
3. Summarize the background in five sentences or less.
4. Identify the specific question(s).
5. Identify the approach.
6. Read the methods section.
7. Read the results section.

***What tense to use in scientific writing?**

Using the right **tense**:

In your **scientific** paper, **use** verb **tenses** (past, present, and future) exactly as you would in ordinary **writing**. **Use** the past **tense** to report what happened in the past: what you did, what someone reported, what happened in an experiment, and so on.

5/ Summarizing a Scientific Text:

Summarizing a short scientific text in one paragraph:

A summary is a shortened version of a longer piece of writing. It captures all the most important parts (main ideas) of the original, but expresses them in a shorter way. Then, it should be expressed--as far as possible--in your own words.

To have a coherent summary of a scientific text, you should follow some reading strategies;

Reading strategies :

- Read the original **quickly**, and try to understand its main subject or purpose.
- Read it **again** to understand it in more detail, identify **keywords** and highlight the essential information.
- Look up any **technical words** or concepts you don't know.

After a good reading, you should then:

A/ Identifying the main sections:

- Work through the text to identify its main sections. A main section can be made up of one or various paragraphs. (Number each different section.)
- Write a one or two-sentence account of each section you identify.
- Focus your attention on the main point and leave out any illustrative examples.

B/ The starting point:

- Write a sentence which states the central idea of the original text.
- Complete the paragraph by including one or two sentences per main point or important part.