

**RESESS Writing Seminar
May-August 2019**

Meeting time and place Thursdays 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **unless otherwise noted**
CU Campus – Benson 240D

Instructor Lon Abbott
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Seminar goals

The ability to write clear succinct prose is an essential skill for scientists seeking to gain rewarding employment and for later career advancement. To write clear prose first requires an ability to think clearly and logically. Together we will explore the basic structure and purpose of scientific papers and their underlying logic. Our ultimate goal is to help you construct your own paper and a meeting abstract that both describe your RESESS research.

Due Dates

All weekly deliverables are due as Word documents to your Communication Mentor by Monday at 5 p.m. on the week each is due. After you revise your work in response to your Communication Mentor’s suggestions, out the revised draft on GoogleDrive by Wednesday at noon. You and a peer will be paired up to edit each other’s material. You will pick up that person’s essay on GoogleDrive and make your edits in Word with “track changes”. Please come to seminar on Thursday having already edited the material. We will spend our time together Thursday discussing your review with the author (and vice versa).

Website for schedule, assignments, and course materials: <http://resess.unavco.org/resources/resources.html>

Seminar Schedule

Week 1

Day 1: Wednesday, May 22

Topic: Field trip to explore the Rocky Mountain uplift controversy

Reading: Abbott, L. and T. Cook, 2012. Geology underfoot along Colorado’s Front Range-Chapter 1–Geology of Colorado’s Front Range, Mountain Press, p. 1-9.

Handout: Information about the Front Range’s geologic history

Assignment: None

Day 2: Thursday, May 23

Topic: Seminar introduction/Discussion of a Research Prospectus and Work Plan

Activities: *Presentations:* Overview of the Writing seminar; Peer review process;

Organizing and writing a Research Prospectus; The role and importance of citations

Reading:

- a) Gopen, G.D. and J.A. Swan, 1990. The science of scientific writing, American Scientist, November-December issue.

Handouts: Rolf’s 7 handouts + Tips from a writing tutor; Seven questions when reading a

scientific paper

Assignment: Research Prospectus+Work Plan with mini-literature review (Due Week 3)

Week 2

Day 3: Thursday, May 30

Topic: Parts of a scientific paper: The Introduction

Activities:

- a) *Presentation:* The Introduction section
- b) *Discussion:* Farmer et al.'s (2008) Introduction – Does it work?

Reading:

- a) Claerbout, J., Scrutiny of the Introduction, Stanford University
- b) Farmer, G.L., T. Bailey, and L.T. Elkins-Tanton, 2008. Mantle source volumes and the origin of the mid-Tertiary ignimbrite flare-up in the southern Rocky Mountains, western U.S., *Lithos*, v. 102, 279-294.

Handouts:

- a) R._Norgaard – Introduction
- b) Peer review guidelines for the Introduction

Assignment: the Introduction for your RESESS paper (Due Week 4)

Week 3

Day 4: Thursday, June 6

Topic: Field trip to Rocky Mountain National Park

Reading: None

Handout: None

Assignment: None

Week 4

Day 5: Thursday, June 13

Topic: Parts of a scientific paper: The Introduction, Background, and Methods sections

Activities:

- a) *Workshop:* Peer review of your Introduction
- b) *Presentation:* Writing the Background and Methods sections of your paper

Reading: None

Handouts:

- a) Peer review guidelines for the Methods section
- b) R._Norgaard – Methods

Assignments: the Background and Methods sections of your paper (Due Week 5)

Week 5

Day 6: Thursday, June 20

Topics: Background & Methods sections of a paper; the importance of figures

Activities:

- a) *Workshop:* Peer review of the Background and Methods sections
- b) *Presentation:* The importance of figures – how to produce effective ones

Reading: None

Handouts: None

Assignment: Produce at least two figures for your paper and/or talk (Due Week 6)

Week 6

Day 7: Thursday, June 27

Topic: Parts of an effective scientific paper: Good figures + Abstract and Conclusion

Activities:

- a) *Workshop:* Discussion/workshop about how to produce effective figures
- b) *Presentation:* Writing the Abstract and Conclusion

Reading:

- a) Landes, K.K., 1952. Scrutiny of the Abstract, *Geophysics*, v. 17.
- b) Video on how to write an abstract: <https://vimeo.com/3968357>

Handouts:

- a) Peer review guidelines for the Abstract
- b) Peter Molnar's "better" abstract
- c) R. Norgaard – Abstract

Assignment: Write a draft of your Abstract (Due Week 8)

Week 7

Day 8: Thursday, July 4

Topic: UNAVCO holiday – No seminar

Reading: None

Handouts: None

Assignment: None

Week 8

Day 9: Thursday, July 11

Topic: Writing the Results and Discussion sections and the Abstract and Conclusion

Activities:

- a) *Workshop:* Peer review of your Abstract
- b) *Presentation:* Writing the Results and Discussion sections of your paper

Reading:

- a) Landes, K.K., 1952. Scrutiny of the Abstract, *Geophysics*, v. 17.
- b) Video on how to write an abstract: <https://vimeo.com/3968357>

Handouts:

- a) Peer review guidelines for the Results and Discussion sections
- b) R. Norgaard – Results and Discussion sections

Assignments:

- a) Complete the first version of your colloquium talk (Due Week 9)
- b) Write a draft of your Results and Discussion sections (Due Week 10)

Week 9

Day 10: Thursday, July 18

Topic: Polishing your colloquium talk

Activity: *Workshop:* One-on-one help polishing your colloquium talk

Reading: None
Handouts: None
Assignment: None

Week 10

Day 11: Thursday, July 25
Topic: Writing the Results and Discussion sections
Activity: *Workshop:* Peer review of Results and Discussion sections
Reading: None
Assignment: Complete scientific paper (Due Week 11)

Week 11

Day 12: Tuesday, July 30
Writing Workshop at CU 9:00-11:00 a.m. (normal time)
Activity: *Workshop:* Peer review of your finished scientific paper

1:00-3:00 p.m. At UNAVCO

Activity: *Workshop:* Practice colloquium talk #2

Note: Interns are responsible for their own transportation to and from UNAVCO

Day 13: Wednesday, July 31 **At UNAVCO 9:00-Noon**

Activity: RESESS Colloquium

Note: Interns are responsible for their own transportation to and from UNAVCO

Day 14: Thursday, August 1

Activity: Poster Practice @ UNAVCO: 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 p.m.

Activity: Final Poster Session @ NCAR 2:00 P.M. – 5:30 p.m.

Note: Interns are responsible for their own transportation to and from UNAVCO and NCAR