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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Office: 222A Benson

**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  
**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**:  
**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
Reading:
   a) Claerbout, J., Scrutiny of the Introduction, Stanford University
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:
   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:
   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