

**ASEAN+3 FETN**  
**Scientific Writing Workshop**

**LECTURE 1**  
**INTRODUCTION**

**Presented by Dorothy L Southern, MPH**

**What do you  
write?**

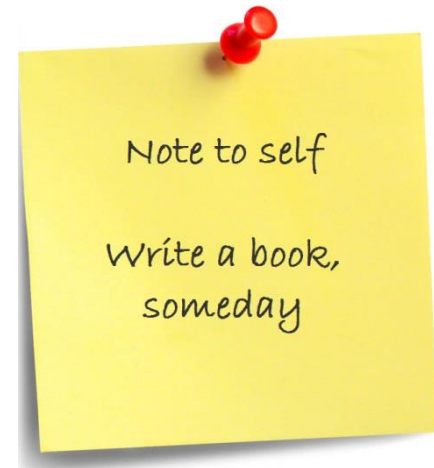




Program/project proposal



Public Health Messages

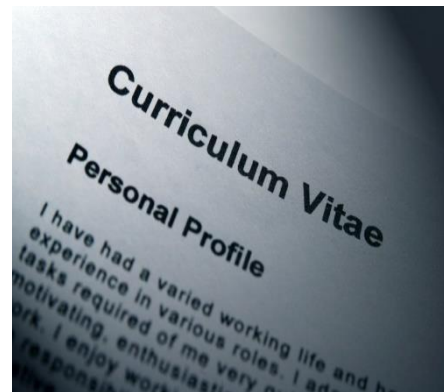


Novel or short story

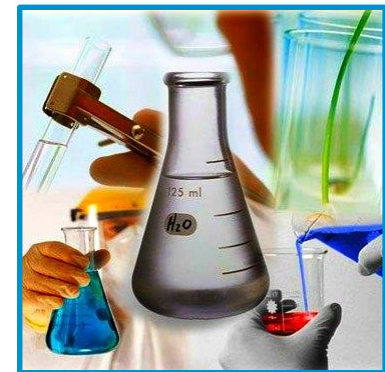
What do you write?



Report



Cover letter/ biography/CV



Scientific research manuscript

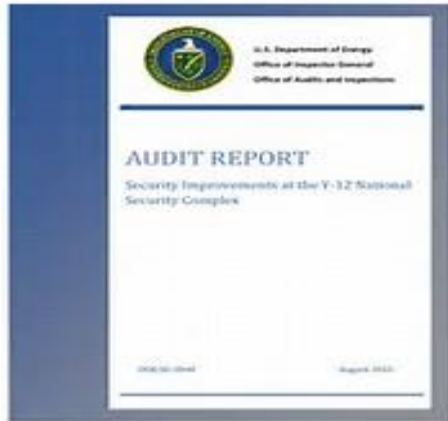
**Why do you  
write?**



Protocol writing



Sharing ideas

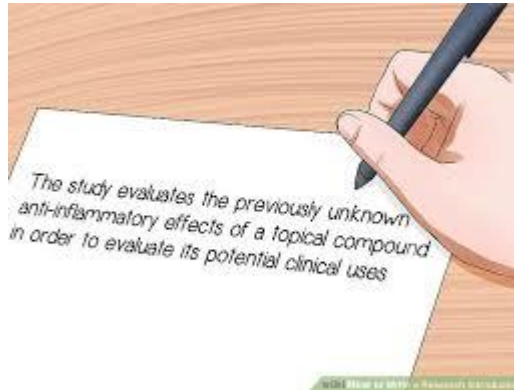


To have an historical record of events



Keeping a record of progress

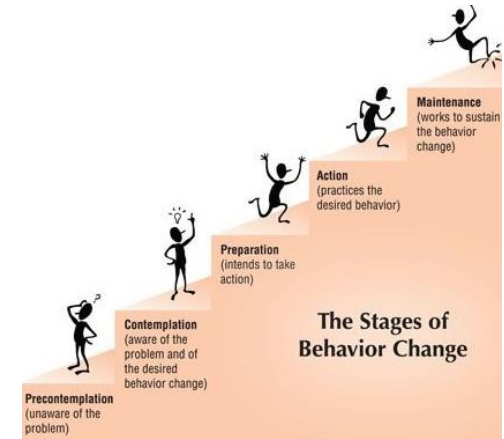
Why do you write?



Sharing research results



Explaining a process or system



Influencing thoughts/ behaviours

# What stops you from writing?





Difficult language

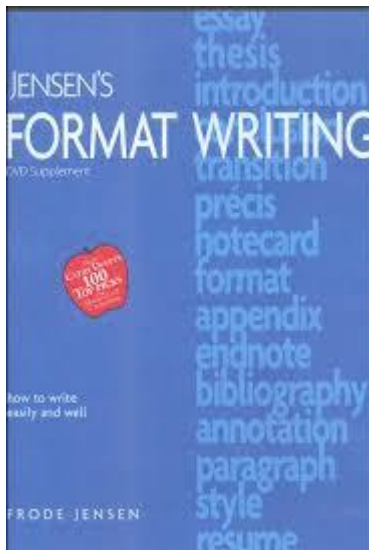


No time



Not knowing how to start

**What stops you from writing?**



Not knowing the format to use



Lack of confidence



Not understanding your results/outcomes

# Scientific writing workshop

- **Schedule**
- **Norms of workshop**
- **Logistics of workshop**



# Lecture objectives

1. To understand appropriate formatting and stylistic guidelines applicable to scientific papers.
2. To apply tips and strategies for each section of a scientific paper.
3. To use appropriate guidelines to check scientific papers for accuracy and completeness.
4. To identify a suitable journal for each scientific paper and to follow the 'Instructions to Authors' with regard to formatting and style.
5. To revise scientific papers into ready-to-submit draft manuscripts.

# Outcome of workshop

## **A scientific manuscript**

A paper of original research results, in a form whereby peers of the author can repeat the research and test the conclusions, to be correctly formatted and submitted to an identified journal, and available to share within the public health research community.

# Different types of scientific papers

- **Literature review articles**

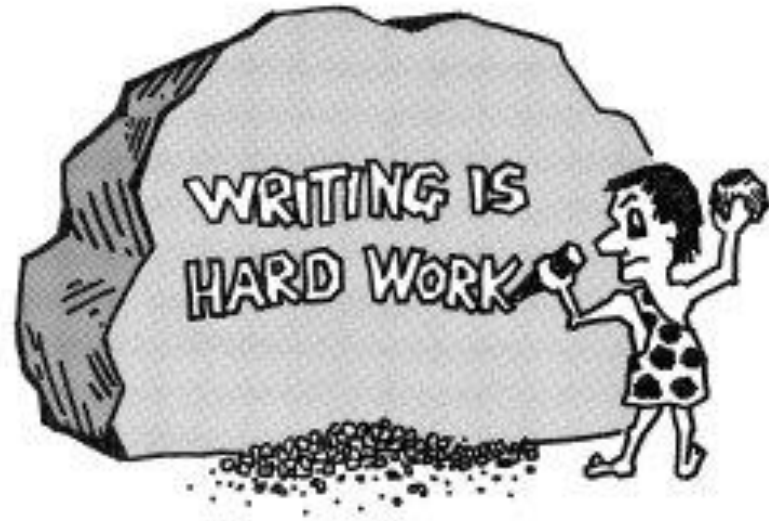
- A systematic review answers a defined research question by collecting and summarising all empirical evidence that fits pre-specified eligibility criteria.
- A meta-analysis is the use of statistical methods to summarise the results of these studies.

- **Presentation of primary research**

- Hypothesis driven research
  - Population-based
  - Secondary data analysis
- Outbreak investigations
- Surveillance evaluations

# Manuscript writing: it's not easy

- Lots of work
  - Drafting
  - Revising (again, and again)
  - Submitting
  - Revising (again)
  - Checking the proofs
  
- Little immediate gratification
  - Severe injuries to the ego



# Why writing up results is important?

- Public health communication's goal is to share results with the public health community and policy makers.
  - Encourage positive changes for healthy lives
- More writers mean more public health research gets published
  - Building blocks toward future studies
  - Greater public health contribution

# Why publishing is important?

- First authored publications are essential to individual growth and development
  - Develops scientific reasoning
  - Credentials expertise
- Researchers are often measured (and promoted) by their publications.

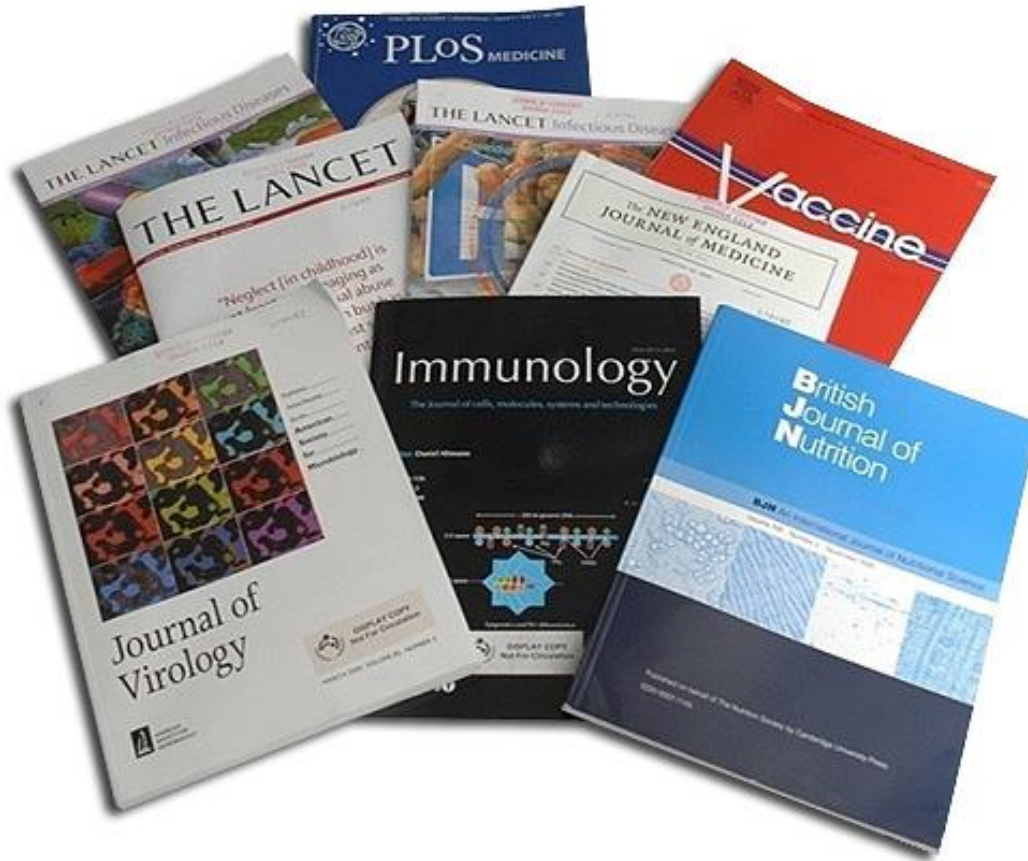


# Take away message

Promoting scientific writing leading to first authored publications:

- Develops scientific reasoning
- Shares an organization's work
- Contributes to global scientific knowledge

# The Pathway to Publishing: A Guide to Quantitative Writing in the Health Sciences



**Steve Luby and Dorothy Southern**

<http://globalhealth.stanford.edu/resources.html>



# Think Before You Write



# *'Think Before You Write'* 5-step approach

1. The 'framing' document
2. The 'high level outline (HLO)'
3. **The 'most common errors'**
4. Authorship responsibilities
5. The 'structured feedback' process

