

COMMUNICATING SCIENCE: A RESOURCE GUIDE

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If you are a journalist or scientist striving to improve public understanding of science, these books and online resources can help you expand your research and communication skills and find new outlets for your work.

BOOKS

Aines, Roger D., and Aines, Amy L. *Championing Science: Communicating Your Ideas to Decision Makers*, University of California Press, 2019, ISBN: 978-0520298095, <https://www.ucpress.edu/books/championing-science/paper>

Alda, Alan. *If I Understood You, Would I Have This Look on My Face? My Adventures in the Art and Science of Relating and Communicating*, Random House, 2017, ISBN-13: 978-0812989144, <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/533869/if-i-understood-you-would-i-have-this-look-on-my-face-by-alan-alda/>

Bains, Sunny. *Explaining the Future: How to Research, Analyze, and Report on Emerging Technologies*, Oxford University Press, 2019, ISBN-13: 978-0198822820, <https://www.explaining-the-future.org/>

Baron, Nancy. *Escape from the Ivory Tower: A Guide to Making Your Science Matter*, Island Press, 2010, ISBN-13: 978-1597266642, <https://islandpress.org/book/escape-from-the-ivory-tower>

Besley, John C, and Dudo, Anthony. *Strategic Science Communication: A Guide to Setting the Right Objectives for More Effective Public Engagement*. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2022, ISBN-13: 978-1421444208, <https://www.press.jhu.edu/books/title/12411/strategic-science-communication>

Bloomfield, Emma Frances. *Science v. Story: Narrative Strategies for Science Communicators*, University of California Press, 2024, ISBN: 978-0520380820, <https://www.ucpress.edu/books/science-v-story/paper>

Blum, Deborah; Knudson, Mary; Henig, Robin Marantz, Eds. *A Field Guide for Science Writers, 2nd ed.*, Oxford, 2006, ISBN-13: 9780195174991, <https://www.nasw.org/bookstore/field-guide-science-writers-official-guide-national-association-science-writers>

Blum, Deborah; Smart, Ashley; Zeller, Tom Jr., Eds. *A Tactical Guide to Science Journalism: Lessons from the Front Lines*. Oxford University Press, 2022, ISBN-13: 9780190944681, <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/a-tactical-guide-to-science-journalism-9780197551509>

Borel, Brooke. *The Chicago Guide to Fact-Checking, 2nd Ed.* (Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing), University of Chicago Press, 2023, ISBN-13: 978-0226817897, <https://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/C/bo194938501.html>, https://www.nasw.org/member_article/brooke-borel-chicago-guide-fact-checking

Brown, Brandon R. *Sharing Our Science: How to Write and Speak STEM*, MIT Press, 2023, ISBN-13: 978-0262546959, <https://mitpress.mit.edu/9780262546959/sharing-our-science/>

Carpenter, Siri, Ed. *The Craft of Science Writing: Selections from The Open Notebook*, The Open Notebook, Inc., In press, Nov 2024, ISBN-13: 9780226830292, <https://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/C/bo236260832.html>

Christiansen, Jen. *Building Science Graphics: An illustrated guide to communicating science through diagrams and visualizations*, A K Peters/CRC Press, 2022, ISBN-13: 978-1032106748, <https://www.routledge.com/Building-Science-Graphics-An-Illustrated-Guide-to-Communicating-Science/Christiansen/p/book/9781032106748>, https://www.nasw.org/member_article/jen-christiansen-building-science-graphics-illustrated-guide-communicating-science

Dean, Cornelia. *Am I Making Myself Clear? A Scientist's Guide to Talking to the Public*, Harvard University Press, 2009, ISBN-13: 978-0674066052, <http://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674066052>

Dean, Cornelia. *Making Sense of Science: Separating Substance from Spin*, Belknap Press: An Imprint of Harvard University Press, hardback, 2017, paperback, 2019, ISBN-13: 978-0674059696, <http://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674059696>

Glogovac, Michelle. *How to Get on Podcasts: Cultivate Your Following, Strengthen Your Message, and Grow as a Thought Leader through Podcast Guesting*, McGraw Hill Business, 2023, ISBN-13-9781265543624, <https://www.mhprofessional.com/how-to-get-on-podcasts-cultivate-your-following-strengthen-your-message-and-grow-as-a-thought-9781265543624-usa>

Goldacre, Ben. *Bad Science: Quacks, Hacks, and Gig Pharma Flacks*, Penguin Random House Canada, 2010, ISBN-13: 978-0771035791, <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.ca/books/202331/bad-science-by-ben-goldacre/9780771035791>

Gross, Liza. *The Science Writers' Investigative Reporting Handbook*, Watchdog Press, 2018, <https://www.lizagross.com/investigative-science-reporting/>

Hall, Trish. *Writing to Persuade: How to Bring People Over to Your Side*, Liveright Publishing Co.: A division of W.W. Norton & Co., 2019, ISBN-13: 978-1631493058, <https://wnorton.com/books/9781631497872>

Hatch, Joshua; Jackson, Nicholas, eds., *KSJ Science Editing Handbook*, 2020, ISBN 13: 9780578867496, Download free at <https://ksjhandbook.org/>, https://www.nasw.org/member_article/joshua-hatch-nicholas-jackson-ksj-science-editing-handbook

Hayes, Richard, and Grossman, Daniel. *A Scientist's Guide to Talking with the Media: Practical Advice from the Union of Concerned Scientists*, Rutgers University Press, 2006, <https://www.rutgersuniversitypress.org/a-scientists-guide-to-talking-with-the-media/9780813538587>

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Hotez, Peter J, MD, PhD. *The Deadly Rise of Anti-Science: A Scientist's Warning*, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2023, <https://www.press.jhu.edu/books/title/33293/deadly-rise-anti-science>

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Jensen, Joli. *Write No Matter What: Advice for Academics*, University of Chicago Press, 2017, ISBN-13: 978-0226461700, <http://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/W/bo26049293.html>

Kearns, Faith. *Getting to the Heart of Science Communication: A Guide to Effective Engagement*, Island Press, 2021, ISBN-13: 978-1642830743, <https://islandpress.org/books/getting-heart-science-communication>

Kiernan, Vincent, *Embargoed Science*, University of Illinois Press, 2006, ISBN-13: 978-0252030970, <https://www.press.uillinois.edu/books/?id=c030970>

Kiernan, Vincent, *Atomic Bill: A Journalist's Dangerous Ambition in the Shadow of the Bomb*, Three Hills, Cornell University Press, 2022, <https://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu/book/9781501765636/atomic-bill/>

Luey, Beth. *Handbook for Academic Authors*, 5th ed., Cambridge University Press, 2010, ISBN-13: 978-1009073356, <https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/handbook-for-academic-authors/5FD8CACF0152F96344A2AF7981431A54>

Munoz, Lisa M.P. *Women in Science Now: Stories and Strategies for Achieving Equity*, 2023, ISBN-13: 978-0231206143, <https://cup.columbia.edu/book/women-in-science-now/9780231206143>

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Meredith, Dennis. *Explaining Research: How to Reach Key Audiences to Advance Your Work*, 2nd Ed. Oxford, 2021, ISBN-13: 9780197571316, <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/explaining-research-9780197571316>, https://www.nasw.org/member_article/dennis-meredith-explaining-research-how-reach-key-audiences-advance-your-work-2nd-ed

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National Academies of Sciences. *Communicating Science Effectively: A Research Agenda*, National Academies Press, 2017, ISBN-13: 978-0309451024, <https://doi.org/10.17226/23674>

National Academies of Sciences. *Using Narrative and Data to Communicate the Value of Science: Proceedings of a Workshop—in Brief (2017)*, National Academies Press, 2017, <https://doi.org/10.17226/24695>

National Association of Science Writers. *Science Writers*, biannual journal, <https://www.nasw.org/sciencewriters> (includes a link to a sample issue); *Advance Copy: new books by NASW members*, archives: <https://www.nasw.org/article/advance-copy>

Olson, Randy. *Don't be Such a Scientist: Talking Substance in an Age of Style*, 2nd Ed., Island Press, 2018, <https://islandpress.org/books/dont-be-such-scientist-second-edition#desc>

Reddy, Christopher. *Science Communication in a Crisis: An Insider's Guide*, Routledge, 2023, ISBN-13: 978-1032377803, <https://www.routledge.com/Science-Communication-in-a-Crisis-An-Insiders-Guide/Reddy/p/book/9781032377803>

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Sinatra, Gale M, and Hofer, Barbara K. *Science Denial: Why It Happens and What to Do About It*, Oxford University Press, 2021, ISBN-13: 978-0190944681, <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/science-denial-9780190944681?q=%22science%20denial%22&lang=en&cc=us>

Singh, Anneliese A., and Lukkarila, Lauren. *Successful Academic Writing: A Complete Guide for Social and Behavioral Scientists*, Guilford Press, 2017, ISBN-13: 9781462529391, <https://www.guilford.com/books/Successful-Academic-Writing/Singh-Lukkarila/9781462529391>

Walsh, Bill. *Elephants of Style: A Trunkload of Tips on the Big Issues and Gray Areas of Contemporary American English*, McGraw Hill, 2004, ISBN-13: 9780071422680

Van Dam, Frans; de Bakker, Liesbeth; Dijkstra, Anne M.; Jensen, Eric A., *Science Communication: An Introduction*, World Scientific, 2021, ISBN-13: 978-9811209871, <https://www.worldscientific.com/worldscibooks/10.1142/11541>

Wilcox, Christie; Brookshire, Bethany; Goldman, Jason G., Eds., *Science Blogging: The Essential Guide*, Yale University Press, 2016, ISBN-13: 978-0300197556, <https://yalebooks.yale.edu/book/9780300197556/science-blogging/>, https://www.nasw.org/member_article/wilcox-brookshire-goldman-eds-science-blogging

Writers of SciLance: Hayden, Thomas, and Nijhuis, Michelle, Eds. *The Science Writers' Handbook: Everything You Need to Know to Pitch, Publish, and Prosper in the Digital Age*, Da Capo Press/Lifelong Books. 2013, ISBN-13: 978-0738216560, <https://www.hachettebookgroup.com/titles/writers-of-scilance/the-science-writers-handbook/9780738216560/>, https://www.nasw.org/member_article/scilance-science-writing-handbook-pendergrast-coca-cola-history

Zvirzdin, Jamie. *Subatomic Writing: Six Fundamental Lessons to Make Language Matter*. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2023, ISBN-13: 978-1421446127, <https://www.press.jhu.edu/books/title/12825/subatomic-writing>

WRITERS' ORGANIZATIONS

- American Medical Writers Association, <https://www.amwa.org/>
- American Society of Journalists and Authors, <https://asja.org/>
- Association of Health Care Journalists, <https://healthjournalism.org/>
- Association of Science Communicators,

<https://www.associationofsciencecommunicators.org/>

- Council for the Advancement of Science Writing, <https://casw.org/>
- Education Writers Association, <https://www.ewa.org/>
- National Association of Science Writers, <https://www.nasw.org/>

WRITERS' SOCIAL MEDIA SITES

- Binders Full of Science Writers, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/788389461205175/>, Private group; apply to join.

WELL-CRAFTED SCIENCE & MEDICINE REPORTS

- Aeon*. Longform essays on science, philosophy, society and the arts, <https://aeon.co/>
- The Conversation*. Broad coverage of science and science policy, <https://theconversation.com/us/>
- Delancey Place*. Daily nonfiction readings, <https://delanceyplace.com/>
- Lit Hub*. Daily selections from “the literary Internet,” <http://lithub.com/>
- Long Reads*. Substantive coverage, wide-ranging topics, <https://longreads.com/>
- The Marginalian*. Essays on writers & writing, <https://www.themarginalian.org/>
- Medium*. Daily nonfiction readings, <https://medium.com/>
- Narative.ly*. Storytelling studio, <http://narrative.ly/>
- Nieman Story Board*. Produced by the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard. Focuses on narrative journalism, <http://niemanstoryboard.org/>
- The Open Notebook*. Backstories on science topics and the writer’s craft, <http://www.theopennotebook.com/>
- Science News*. Reports on advances in science, medicine and technology for the general public, <https://www.sciencenews.org/>
- Science News for Students*. Coverage of current events in science, technology, engineering, and math for readers aged 9+. Accessible language, style worth emulating, <https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org/>
- Science Writing News Roundup*. News, opportunities, resources, videos, and events related to science writing and science journalism, <https://sciencewriting.substack.com/>
- Yes Magazine*. Reports on societal problems and opportunities for systemic, structural change, <https://www.yesmagazine.org/>

WEBSITES FOCUSED ON THE WRITER'S CRAFT

- Agents and Books*, <https://katemckean.substack.com/>
- Before and After the Book Deal*, <https://courtneymaum.substack.com/>
- BookSmarts*, <https://juliarosen.substack.com/>
- CommNatural*, <https://www.commnatural.com/blog/tags/writing-resource>
- Globe Soup*, <https://www.globesoup.net/writing-blog/best-websites-for-writers>
- Grammarly*, <https://www.grammarly.com/blog/writing-websites/>
- Jane Friedman*, <https://www.janefriedman.com/>
- Journalist's Resource Guide*, <https://journalistsresource.org/>
- Neon Literary*, neonliterary@substack.com

- Publish Not Perish*, <https://publishnotperish.substack.com/>
- Reedsy*, <https://blog.reedsy.com/best-writing-websites/>
- Scribendi*, https://www.scribendi.com/advice/best_writing_websites.en.html
- The Open Notebook. Backstories on science topics and the writer's craft*, <http://www.theopennotebook.com/>
- The Write Life*, <https://thewritelife.com/best-websites-for-writers-2021/> (No 2022 or 2023 lists)
- Writer Unboxed*, <http://writerunboxed.com/>.
- Writer's Digest*, <https://www.writersdigest.com/tag/writers-digest-101-best-websites-for-writers-2023>

BOOK REVIEWS AND BOOK-FOCUSED ESSAYS

- Kirkus Reviews*, <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/>
- NPR*, <https://www.npr.org/sections/book-reviews/>
- New York Review of Books*, <https://www.nyrb.com/>
- New York Times*, <https://www.nytimes.com/section/books/review>
- Off the Shelf*, <http://offtheshelf.com/>
- Washington Post*, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/books/>

MAGAZINES, NEWSPAPERS, AND WEBSITES THAT OFTEN COVER SCIENCE & MEDICINE

- The Atlantic*, <https://www.theatlantic.com/>
- The Conversation*, <https://theconversation.com/us/>
- DAME*, <https://www.damemagazine.com/>
- Harper's Magazine*, <https://harpers.org/>
- Huff Post*, <https://www.huffpost.com/>
- The Hill*, <https://thehill.com/>
- Massive Science*, <https://massivesci.com/>
- New Yorker*, <http://newyorker.com/>
- Science News*, <https://www.sciencenews.org/>
- Slate*, <https://slate.com/>
- Smithsonian Magazine*, <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/>
- Stat News*, <https://www.statnews.com/>
- Thrive Global*, <https://thriveglobal.com/>
- Undark Magazine*, <https://undark.org/>
- The Wall Street Journal*, <http://www.wsj.com/>
- WebMD*, <https://www.webmd.com/>
- Wired*, <https://www.wired.com/magazine/>

SCIENCE BLOGS

- Geekwrapped*, <https://www.geekwrapped.com/the-20-best-science-blogs>, <https://www.geekwrapped.com/posts/the-50-best-science-books>, <https://www.geekwrapped.com/posts/the-20-best-science-podcasts>,

<https://www.geekwrapped.com/blog/50-best-nature-science-tech-youtube-channels>
—Jarreau, Paige Brown, *From the Lab Bench*, <http://www.fromthelabbench.com/from-the-lab-bench-science-blog/category/Science+Journalism>
—Limas, Marianna, *Science Writing News Roundup*, <https://sciencewriting.substack.com/>
—Mass General Research Institute, <https://mgriblog.org/communicating-science/>
—*National Geographic, Phenomena*, <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/topic/phenomena>
—*PLoS*, <https://blogs.plos.org/plos/2020/01/breaking-down-publication-to-share-the-full-story-of-your-research/>
—Science Blogs, <http://scienceblogs.com/>
—*Science*, <https://www.science.org/blogs>
—*Scientific American Blogs*, <https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/>
—Women in Science and Engineering: 12 Must-Read Bloggers, http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/cwsem/PGA_050396

VIDEOS

—*Community Neuroscience*: In the Dana Foundation’s Community Neuroscience video series, neuroscience communicators share their experiences with public outreach.

Search <https://www.youtube.com/> for “Dana Foundation, community neuroscience” and watch:

How to Write About Neuroscience, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o36LhalhH60;>

Communicating Your Science Story, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sn7EXfJffgl.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sn7EXfJffgl)

—*Kavli Conversations on Science Communication at NYU*,

<https://journalism.nyu.edu/graduate/programs/science-health-and-environmental-reporting/kavli-conversations-on-science-communication/>

—*Mike Morrison*: Psychologist Michael Morrison aims to improve science communication via graphics.

See @mikemorrison and watch:

How to create a better research poster in less time,

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SYk29tnxASs,](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SYk29tnxASs)

The Future of Scientific Publication, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCl1dKJHTU>

—*Science Sources: Where to Find them and How to Vet Them*,

<https://ksjhandbook.org/webinar/science-editing-webinar-series/science-sources-where-to-find-them-and-how-to-vet-them/>

CONTINUING ED

—*Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science, Stony Brook University*, <https://aldacenter.org/>.

From its website: “Driven by research and developed by experts, Alda Center programs address the leading communication challenges that scientists, researchers, and healthcare professionals face every day.”

—*Association of Science Communicators*,

<https://www.associationofsciencecommunicators.org/courses-training-opportunities/>

—*CASW Connector*. Council for the Advancement of Science Writing, curated science journalism and communication resource library that includes articles, guides, training programs,

conferences, fellowships, and career advice, <https://connector.casw.org/>
—Evergreen, Shel. “The ultimate science writing resource guide,”
<https://medium.com/@shelevergreen/the-ultimate-science-writing-resource-guide-356ee8f0b5f6>
—Knight Center Journalism Courses, <https://journalismcourses.org/>
—National Academies of Sciences, Countering Misinformation and Sharing Science Effectively,
<https://www.nationalacademies.org/topics/misinformation>
—Poynter, Journalism courses and other resources, <https://www.poynter.org/>
—SciLine (AAAS), “Our goal is to help get more science into news stories.” Offers help finding experts, media briefings, interview opportunities, crash course, boot camps, and more,
<https://www.sciline.org/>

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Readers: Can you suggest additional resources? Did you encounter broken links?
If so, please write llamberg@nasw.org.

If you are not a member of the National Association of Science Writers or the Association of Science Communicators, explore their websites and consider joining:

- <https://www.nasw.org/join>
- <https://www.associationofsciencecommunicators.org/membership/>

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