

Chemistry 360 - Some Useful Books

1. General Reference Works for Writers

- a) A good dictionary (even if your word processing program has one); you need this for definitions, variants, etc.
- b) A thesaurus to add variety and suggest alternatives; your word processing program may have one.
- c) Fowler, H. W. *A Dictionary of Modern English Usage*, 2nd ed., Oxford University Press, 1987, \$24.95. The standard book on usage although a little old-fashioned, but still a good guide and also entertaining.
- d) Strunk, W.; White, E. B. *The Elements of Style*, 3rd ed., Macmillan, 1979. A classic; terse and pointed.
- e) Turabian, K. L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 6th ed., University of Chicago Press, 1980, \$8.95. The standard style manual for non-science areas. It has much useful information.
- f) Barzun, J.; Graff, H. F. *The Modern Researcher*, 5th ed., HBJ, 1992, \$24.95. The research referred to is in history but scientific writers can learn a lot from this urbane manual.

2. Particularly Useful for Scientists/Chemists

- a) *The ACS Style Guide*, Dodd, 2nd Ed., J. S., Ed., American Chemical Society, 1997. Your text and a valuable reference for any science writer.
- b) Ebel, H. F.; Bliefert, C.; Russey, W. E. *The Art of Scientific Writing*, VCH, 1987, \$35.00. Despite the title, it's primarily about the technique of writing; and, it has some useful sections on oral presentations.
- c) Schoenfeld, R. *The Chemist's English*, 3rd ed., VCH, 1990, \$30.00. Entertaining set of articles by the late editor of *The Australian Journal of Chemistry*.
- d) Day, R. A. *How to Write and Publish a Scientific Paper*, 2nd ed., iSi Press, 1983. Brief, pointed and useful advice.
- e) Katz, M. J. *Elements of the Scientific Paper*, Yale University Press, 1985. A step by step guide to writing a scientific paper.
- f) Alley, M. *The Craft of Scientific Writing*, Prentice Hall, 1987. Another step by step guide to writing.
- g) Cain, B. E. *The Basics of Technical Writing*, American Chemical Society, 1988. \$19.95. A Companion to your textbook on the process of writing rather than just the style.
- h) Woolston, D. C.; Robinson, P. A.; Kutzbach, G. *Effective Writing Strategies for Engineers and Scientists*, Lewis Publishers, 1988, \$24.95. Emphasizes the decision making process by which an author turns science into prose.
- i) Eisenberg, A. *Writing Well for the Technical Professions*, Harper and Row, 1989, \$27.00. Teaches by using examples of excellent writing from the sciences and engineering.