CH 801 Writing I
an outline

• Introduction: Why should we write well?
• Tools for better writing, online and at BU
• Editing and critiques
• Rules to follow... and when to break them

The following is excerpted from a webpage available at the University of Kentucky:
http://www.chem.uky.edu/courses/common/plagiarism.html

This is one of the most common mistakes that students make. You can not simply reword a sentence. This is best shown by example. Consider the following sentence from Angelici (Synthesis and Technique in Inorganic Chemistry, p 46):

"Those complexes that contain unpaired electrons are attracted into a magnetic field and are said to be paramagnetic, while those with no unpaired electrons are repelled by such a field and are called diamagnetic"

The following permutations are unacceptable changes in wording:

"Complexes that contain unpaired electrons are those that are attracted to a magnetic field. These are called paramagnetic, while those with no unpaired electrons are repelled by a magnetic field and are said to be diamagnetic."

"Those complexes that contain paired electrons are repelled by a magnetic field and are said to be diamagnetic, whereas those with no paired electrons are attracted to such a field and are called paramagnetic."

"Compounds that have unpaired electrons are attracted to a magnetic field and are called paramagnetic. Compounds with no unpaired electrons are repelled by this field and are said to be diamagnetic.”
$6 = \text{Brevatoxin A}$


http://www.m-w.com
Grammar, Usage & Style

- Common Errors in English. By Paul Brians. Simple, entertaining explanations of common errors in English.
- MLA Guide for Writing Research Papers.
- Right Words newsletter articles. From Right Words New Zealand Limited.
- Sharp Points. Bill Walsh's "vociferous rants" on matters of style.
- Silva Rhetoricae: The Forest of Rhetoric. A guide to the terms of classical and renaissance rhetoric. By Dr. Gideon Burton of Brigham Young University.
- Writing for the Web. By John Morberg and Jakob Nielsen. A research project about how users read on the Web and how authors should write their Web pages.

From the Open Directory Project:

- Writers Resources
- Reference/Style Guides

http://dictionary.reference.com/writing

The Elements of Style

William Strunk, Jr.

Asserting that one must first know the rules to break them, this classic reference book is a must-have for any student and conscientious writer intended for use in which the practice of composition is combined with the study of literature, it gives in brief space the principal requirements of plain English style and concentrates attention on the rules of usage and principles of composition most commonly violated.

Search:

http://www.bartleby.com
The American Heritage® Book of English Usage

A Practical and Authoritative Guide to Contemporary English

With a detailed look at grammar, style, diction, word formation, gender, social groups and scientific forms, this valuable reference work is ideal for students, writers, academicians and anybody concerned about proper writing style.

Search:

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SIRCh: Science Writing Aids

Page Contents:

- Software and Other Tools for Writing Assistance
- Chemical Nomenclature Aids
- Science Writing Manuals & Style Guides

Last Updated: April 22, 2003

Software and Other Tools for Writing Assistance

- Bibliographic Reference Managers (University of California, Davis)
- Guides & Handouts for Bibliographic Database Management (Wisconsin)
- ACD's ChemFolder
- ACD's ChemSketch
- ACD's Structure Drawing Applet
- CambridgeSoft's ChemDraw
- MDL's ISIS/Draw
- Chemistry 4D-Draw

http://www.indiana.edu/~cheminfo/ca_swa.html
Online Technical Writing: Common Grammar, Usage, and Spelling Problems

This appendix covers only those grammar, punctuation, usage, and spelling problems that give people the biggest headaches.

- Commas
- Colons
- Semicolons
- Apostrophes
- Hyphens
- Comma splices and run-ons
- Fragments
- Problem modifiers
- Parallelism
- Subject-verb agreement
- Pronoun reference
- Pronoun case (who, whom)
- Capitalization
- Numbers vs. words
- Symbols and abbreviations

http://www.io.com/~hcexres/tcm1603/acchtml/gramov.html
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER

WRITING CENTER

The ERC Writing Center is designed to assist Boston University students with all aspects of the writing process excluding proofreading and editing. Our Writing Fellows help students with writing elements such as organization, documentation, and style.

Writing Fellows are available for individual sessions of 40 minutes per session. Three sessions per week are allowed with a maximum of twelve sessions per semester. To schedule an appointment, please call 617-353-2977 or stop by our office.

Outreach Programs, such as the Residence Hall Program and the Athlete Study Hall, are exempt from the twelve-session limit and are available on a walk-in basis.

http://www.bu.edu/erc/services/writing-center.html

Tutoring Services

The CAS Writing Center
730 Commonwealth Avenue, third floor

The CAS Writing Center offers one-on-one and group tutorials free of charge to any and every student enrolled in Writing Program courses. The Writing Center is also the location of the administrative offices of the Writing Program.

Some students will be required to enroll in individual and group tutorials (WR 095 or WR 096) if their work on the BUWA suggests the need for regular meetings with a tutor throughout the semester. All students will be urged by their teachers to consult tutors often during the semester, especially when revising drafts of their essays.

Tutorials are by appointment only. Students may sign up for tutorial sessions either by phone, at 617-353-1500, or in person at the Writing Center.

http://www.bu.edu/cas/writing/tutoring.html
http://www.m-w.com
http://www.oed.com
http://www.bartleby.com
http://dictionary.reference.com/writing
http://thesaurus.reference.com
http://www.indiana.edu/~cheminfo/ca_swa.html
http://www.io.com/~hcexres/tcm1603/acchtml/gramov.html
http://www.bu.edu/erc/services/writing-center.html
http://www.bu.edu/cas/writing/tutoring.html
Why should we attempt to write well?

Sean Elliott  
CHRI31  
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It is generally accepted that being able to write well is important. The ability to communicate ideas effectively is crucial in both personal and professional contexts. Writing well not only demonstrates one's ability to think clearly and logically but also enhances one's credibility and effectiveness in communicating with others. Moreover, strong writing skills are often seen as a mark of professionalism and can significantly impact career opportunities.

Readers appreciate well-written documents because they are easier to understand, more engaging, and less time-consuming. In today's fast-paced world, where information overload is a common problem, clear and concise writing is highly valued. Additionally, well-written documents tend to be more persuasive, making them more effective in achieving their intended goals.

In academic settings, writing well is crucial for success. Clear and concise writing is essential in preparing papers, reports, and presentations. It allows for the effective dissemination of ideas and concepts, facilitating critical thinking and analysis. Moreover, well-written academic work is more likely to be taken seriously by peers and supervisors, potentially leading to better opportunities and recognition.

In summary, the importance of writing well cannot be overstated. It is a skill that can significantly impact one's professional reputation, personal development, and overall effectiveness in communication. Therefore, it is imperative to cultivate strong writing skills and continually strive to improve them.