

PHY1600S - Effective Communication for Scientists

Assignment #1 – 9 January 2018

The Web site entitled *Writing and Speaking Guidelines for Engineering and Science*, at

<https://www.craftofscientificwriting.com/>

contains a large amount of material that you will find useful to sharpen and refresh your writing and presentation skills. Much of the information on this site is based on Alley's *The Craft of Scientific Writing* (see my list of texts).

In this assignment, you will use the section under the *Exercises* tab of this site; I encourage you to view the PowerPoint presentations on *Teaching Slides* (under the *Teaching* tab) and *Model talks* (under *Home* and then *Scientific Presentations*) before you prepare your own in-class presentations.

The Assignment

Your first written assignment is a preparation for most of the rest. On the Web site above, click on the menu item *Writing Exercises* and work your way through the *Grammar Exercises*, *Punctuation Exercises*, and *Usage Exercises*. You will not have a reading buddy for this assignment!

To allow me to check that you have done these conscientiously (not that I don't trust you!) please email to me – pekka.sinervo@utoronto.ca – your answers to the following questions, which can be found in these exercises – (remember that your document will be titled joe1.doc, if your name is Joe!).

1. What year was the Great Comet?
2. How many rads are needed to result in interphase death of yeast cells?
3. How much did it cost to build the Titanic?
4. In the last paragraph of the Punctuation #3 exercise, what is the nature of the final (fourth) mistake?

Finally, correct the following sentences:

5. I find that my written documents require continuous revision.
6. The revisions which I made have to be deleted, though the amount was small.
7. The principle reasons for my error was my hangover from the night before.
8. I enjoy glass of wine in evenings: my doctor says it is very healthy.