



Writing Advice*: Continuity

Walking your reader through your ideas requires continuity of your thoughts.

This is a quick check list that you can use, to strengthen continuity of thoughts so that your writing is cohesive and does the work you want it to do:

- ✓ **Add context** to provide sufficient background. To do this, you may have to define new technical terms, or concepts.
- ✓ **Explain the significance** of the data reported: why does the data matter? What does it demonstrate?
- ✓ **Quantify how much or how many**, using the appropriate unit of measure, when using comparatives, or adjectives: hot, cold, high, low, increase, decrease, etc.
- ✓ **Specify the agent of actions**, if the agent isn't evident from the context.
- ✓ **Trim excessive nominalizations** (development, maintenance) where possible.
- ✓ **Eliminate superfluous** phrases and sentences: remove excessive or obvious statements.
- ✓ **Clear up any ambiguous statements**: is the statement unnecessarily complex, or could it be misinterpreted?
- ✓ **Check for logical connections** within and between sentences: do your ideas flow smoothly from idea to the next?

*Adapted from: Harmon, J. E., & Gross, A. G. (2010). Improving scientific English. *The Craft of Scientific Communication Writing, Editing, & Publishing*. University of Chicago Press.



The Pearce Center for Professional Communication
Clemson University
Clemson, SC 29634
Ph: (864) 656-935 E: PEP@g.clemson.edu