

CBS-DEFINED DISCIPLINE-SPECIFIC WRITING CHARACTERISTICS:

- **Concise:** Arguments or descriptions are direct and to the point, generally employing no unnecessary words.
- **Precise:** Wording is unambiguous; scientific terminology is used appropriately; objects, findings and processes are described accurately.
- **Overt:** Ideas are presented in a direct and comprehensible (“reader-friendly”) manner.
- **Presence of a logical and cohesive narrative:** Much scientific writing tells a story that emerges from logic, but remains separate from its author.
- **Evidence-based:** Ideas and conclusions are based on data; narrative moves from data to conclusions
- **Structured to reflect scientific reasoning:** Much scientific writing includes a description of a hypothesis based on current knowledge and the methodology used to test the hypothesis, the resulting data, and an interpretation of the data in light of other published work.
- **Cumulative and contributive:** Strong scientific arguments should reflect the cumulative and contributive nature of science (synthesizing and building upon foundational concepts and findings of others).
- **Organized using specific scientific formats:** For example, research reports generally contain an Introduction, Methods, Results and Discussion; text is typically accompanied by supporting data in the form of tables, figures, and/or graphs which each contain appropriate and informative legends (captions).