

2.05 - STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE WRITING STYLE

1. ***WRITE FROM AN OUTLINE***

Use outline markers as research boundaries and manuscript headings.

An outline

1. helps preserve the logic of the research,
2. identifies main ideas,
3. defines subordinate ideas,
4. helps avoid tangential excursions, and
5. helps detect omissions.

2. ***WRITE***

There are no good writers; there are only good rewriters.

Write it poorly if necessary; trust your editing and rewriting.

3. ***INCUBATE***

Put aside the first draft and reread it after a delay.

Proofread carefully.

4. ***READ PAPER ALOUD***

5. ***ASK A COLLEAGUE TO CRITIQUE THE DRAFT***

Be prepared to accept the criticism.

Form collegial groups devoted to this task.