

## Specific perceived problems with writing discussions and their solutions

Problem	Solution
Lazy	Shouldn't be doing research – find other careers
Lack of confidence / anxiety	Practise / become familiar with the task(s)
The thought of rejection, or revision at peer review inhibits your writing	Confidence through practising, structure vocabulary and experience plus co-author(s) help / read respective journal's guidelines to the authors
Unfamiliar task / unfamiliar 'territory'	Experience and practise, every novice researcher starts from a starting point of ignorance.
Reluctance to write anything stupid / Want to get it right, which causes delays	Practise vocabulary and grammar – check with your co-authors before you write important statements
Don't know how to approach the task	Planning, practise and structure
Heard stories about how difficult it is	Don't be discouraged by your peers. Practise, experience, structure and perseverance will help
Not taught English grammar at school recently and are 'rusty'	Many universities run generic skills courses for writing academic texts or courses in English for science students
Downloaded texts from the worldwide web thus never learned to organise, synthesize and write scientific texts	Practise grammar and structure
Usually 'copy-and-paste' sections from one text to another.	Something that should never usually be done because different styles require varying emphasis to suit different sections of

	texts
Don't write enough in the discussion /can't think of anything to write	Practise and structure Make a comprehensive template
Write too much in the discussion	Practise and structure need a comprehensive template and grammar/punctuation practise
English is not your mother tongue	Attend scientific English writing courses/seminar(s) Generic skills
'Issues' with co-authors/supervisor	Learn tactfulness social skills working in a team /learn to write scientific English properly
The co-authors/supervisor disagree with what you write	Ascertain specific difficulty(ies). Is it content or grammar, or do you have personal difficulties with your colleagues? Get closer cooperation and co- ordination
Section of text are rejected because they are not appropriate for that particular section of the paper	An appreciation of which text goes where/ what is pertinent /structure
Can't express good ideas adequately in writing	Grammar and vocabulary practise/scientific courses/seminar(s)
Keep changing the text	Planning structure and grammar
Co-author(s) complain my sentences are too long and confusing	Structure, grammar especially syntax, punctuation (use fewer punctuation marks).
The grammar checker always underlines my text with a green wavy line even when I know the grammar is correct, and this inhibits my writing	Click on 'Word' then 'Preferences', select 'Spelling and Grammar' then disable the grammar checker in the relevant check boxes
Use the wrong prepositions (a particular problem for speakers of some language groups)	Vocabulary and Grammar – read scientific texts and underline prepositions and prepositional phrases learn phrasal

	verbs commonly used in your field of study
Keep using the wrong verb tense form	See grammar reference section in this book
Not sure which convention for units to use or whether to use American or British English	Always read journal's 'Author guidelines' or have a recent issue of the journal for quick reference
Can't get the information to 'flow'	Planning of the content outline and the content draft with headings and short sentences. Structure is vitally important. Grammar especially clause syntax pronouns and sentence connectors (transitional words and phrases).
Keeping changing what you write	Structure grammar
Co-authors are always changing the position of the adverbs	Grammar especially syntax of English Sentences need to be revised. Understand the positional relationship between adverbs and the verbs they modify.
Write about the same topic in more than one part of the discussion	Improve the structure by agreeing on the headings with co-authors
I can't find any other study in the literature that shows the same results that I obtained/ there is no other reference in the literature that is directly comparable ( <b>a perceived problem of novice researchers</b> )	This is <b>not</b> a problem Providing you have thoroughly searched the literature, used correct methods and search criteria. It shows your data is unique and that alone merits consideration for publication
The data obtained from the experiment is complicated making it difficult to interpret and explain: some data fit the original hypothesis, some belong to the null hypothesis and some belong to neither set. Can't explain the data clearly enough.	Consult a statistician: broaden your literature search for comparable data for each set and for comparable methodologies. Use visualising techniques such as 'mind mapping', draw diagrams and

	initially describe data in simple sentences
Controversy exist over two or more competing or conflicting interpretations of the same data.	Recognise this difficulty and devote a section or paragraph in the discussion by structuring to carefully explain your interpretation. This controversy should also be mentioned in the introduction of the paper. Don't avoid dealing with controversy over the interpretation but be aware of the limitations of the extent of interpretation. Ensure that your group's interpretation is adequately supported by key references and highlight difference between various conflicting references.