

Abstract Submitted  
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**The art of scientific writing** MOHAMED GAD-EL-HAK, Virginia Commonwealth University — The humanities teach students how to learn and communicate. Science teaches why everything works. Engineering teaches how to make things work. But scientists and engineers need to communicate their ideas amongst themselves as well as to everyone else. A newly developed technical writing course is outlined. In the class, offered to senior undergraduate and beginning graduate students, we read numerous short novels, essays, and op-eds. Some of the reading materials are technical but many are not. The students also have weekly writing assignments. When the first assignment is returned to the students with a grade of 20–30%, their first reaction is, “how come I did not receive my usual 80–90%?” I retort, “you reach that level only when your essay is ready to be published in *The New York Times*.” What is emphasized in the class is the process of creating something to write about, researching that something, expressing ideas coherently and comprehensibly, then endlessly editing the essay. The elective class has been offered three times thus far, all of its available seats are always filled, the students’ evaluations have been outstanding, and the improvements in the students’ ability to write by the end of the semester is quite impressive.

Mohamed Gad-el-Hak  
Virginia Commonwealth University

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