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A Field Guide For Science Writers: The Official Guide Of The National Association Of Science Writers



Synopsis

This is the official text for the National Association of Science Writers. In the eight years since the publication of the first edition of *A Field Guide for Science Writing*, much about the world has changed. Some of the leading issues in today's political marketplace - embryonic stem cell research, global warming, health care reform, space exploration, genetic privacy, germ warfare - are informed by scientific ideas. Never has it been more crucial for the lay public to be scientifically literate. That's where science writers come in. And that's why it's time for an update to the Field Guide, already a staple of science writing graduate programs across the country. The academic community has recently recognized how important it is for writers to become more sophisticated, knowledgeable, and skeptical about what they write. More than 50 institutions now offer training in science writing. In addition mid-career fellowships for science writers are growing, giving journalists the chance to return to major universities for specialized training. We applaud these developments, and hope to be part of them with this new edition of the Field Guide. In *A Field Guide for Science Writers*, 2nd Edition, the editors have assembled contributions from a collection of experienced journalists who are every bit as stellar as the group that contributed to the first edition. In the end, what we have are essays written by the very best in the science writing profession. These wonderful writers have written not only about style, but about content, too. These leaders in the profession describe how they work their way through the information glut to find the gems worth writing about. We also have chapters that provide the tools every good science writer needs: how to use statistics, how to weigh the merits of conflicting studies in scientific literature, how to report about risk. And, ultimately, how to write.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

From cloning to global warming, it is the most provocative issues in science that are becoming increasingly prominent in everyday life. At the same time, however, the extent of scientific knowledge has grown, and the nexus of available knowledge has become too complex for the nonscientist to navigate. Never before has the work of science writers, who bridge the gap between professional scientists and the public, been more essential. The best guide for teaching and learning effective science writing, this second edition of *A Field Guide for Science Writers* improves on the classic first edition with a wider range of topics, a new slate of writers, and an up-to-date exploration of the most stimulating and challenging issues in science. In this collection of essays, nationally known science writers Deborah Blum, Mary Knudson, and Robin Marantz Henig assemble the best science writers working today to explain what they do and how to do it well. The book combines detailed and practical how-to advice with thoughtful discussions of the challenges of science journalism in the 21st century and doesn't shy away from addressing such controversial matters as cloning, stem cell research, eugenics, medical overtreatment, and questions of scientific honesty. Offering a comprehensive overview of the field of science writing, this book discusses a broad range of media and sources, from newspapers to broadcast journalism and from corporations to government agencies. It also provides a detailed analysis of some of the hottest fields in science writing -- ranging from mental health to human genetics -- and covers of a diverse array of writing styles, from "gee-whiz" to investigative. Written by people who work for such leading news outlets as *Scientific American*, *Popular Science*, *Discover*, *Smithsonian*, *The New York Times*, and *The Wall Street Journal*, this book is an invaluable resource for current and aspiring science writers, students and instructors in science writing and journalism, and scientists who are interested in science communication.

Deborah Blum is a Pulitzer Prize winning science writer, former president of the National Association of Science Writers, and Professor of journalism at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is the author of such award-winning books as *Love at Goon Park: Harry Harlow and the Science of Affection*, *Sex on the Brain*, and *The Monkey Wars*. She has also written for *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Discover*, *Psychology Today*, *Life*, *Health*, *The Utne Reader*, *Mother Jones*, and *discovery.com*. Mary Knudson is a medical writer at work on a book on heart failure to be published by the Johns Hopkins University Press. She wrote

about medicine for the Baltimore Sun for seventeen years and won an NASW Science-in-Society Award. On the Primary Faculty at the Johns Hopkins University Master of Arts in Writing Program, she teaches science/medical writing and the Literature of Science. Robin Marantz Henig is a contributing writer for the New York Times Magazine and author of 8 books, including Pandora's Baby (2004) and The Monk in the Garden (2000). She is a winner of the 2004 NASW Science-in-Society Award and three-time recipient of the June Roth Memorial Award for medical writing. Her writing appears in The Best American Science Writing 2005.

I ordered this ebook for a science writing class that I was taking. Boy was I surprised at how entertaining this book is for just leisure reading. There are lots of different short science stories which have actually been written and published for the current year. For someone who wants some great nonfiction entertainment or is looking at different styles of journalistic writing, this is an awesome book.

Pretty helpful for my journalism class. It was informative with many examples to help drive each chapter/lesson home.

This book is written by a variety of professional writers who seem to be intent on sharing all of the (now-public) secrets to their success. Everything from finding a story to developing your style to maintaining sources and organizing information is covered. I would recommend this book to anyone who is interested in writing about science, and I would also mention it to anyone who would like to enrich their science writing.

excellent condition and useful

I am a recently retired scientist and finally have the time to do some things important to me such as science writing. So I looked for a source to guide and inspire me. The Field Guide is all I could have wanted. The editors have selected some of the best in the field to write and update the chapters. They begin each chapter with a helpful introduction to its author. The Field Guide has excellent, timely, and useful information. It contains 'how to' chapters, 'where to look' and 'how to interview' chapters. Strunk and White would be impressed with the many examples of good writing. The Elements of Style, Fourth Edition If you're a science writer, or want to be, you need the Field Guide as a reference and inspiration.

A Must-Have for any science writer who takes his/her job seriously.

This is a good book. It has some great examples of science and nature writing. I enjoyed reading a lot of the pieces in it, especially the one on plastics in the North Pacific Gyre.

Every type of journalism has its own challenges. This book, as it says, is a boot camp for science writing. It helped to me firm ideas about how to make articles clearer and more interesting.

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