



# Scientific Writing

Refresh Teaching, November 23, 2017

# Research on Scientific Writing

- Expert writers possess deep knowledge of the **discourse communities**.
- Students must therefore acquire the **subtleties** of the discourse community.
- Writing practice should not be taken away from the subject discipline or discourse community, but rather should be **integrated into the disciplinary courses of a programme: «Writing across the Curriculum»**

Beaufort 2007

English for Specific Academic Purposes (ESAP); Flowerdew 2016

Writing Across the Curriculum (Bazerman et al. 2005; Paschke et al. 2011).

# Discourse community is

«a social group that

- communicates at least in part via written texts
- shares common goals, values, and writing standards, a specialized vocabulary and specialized genres.»

Beaufort, 2007

# Components of discourse community knowledge

- **subject matter knowledge**

writer's grasp on existing knowledge or knowledge newly gained through research, observation etc.

- **genre knowledge**

writer's awareness of the type of document he/she must write, as well as its limitations

- **rhetorical knowledge**

writer's awareness of the target audience, the audience's motives for reading the text

- **process knowledge**

knowledge of how to go about writing a particular document (planning, drafting, revision ...)

Beaufort 2007, Woodward 2015

# Models of implementing scientific writing courses at ETH

- I. Integration into subject learning at Bachelor's and Master's level
- II. Separate, discipline-specific courses in scientific writing
- III. Courses with broad disciplinary scope provided by the Language Center UZH/ETHZ
- IV. Cross-disciplinary courses

<https://www.ethz.ch/en/the-eth-zurich/education/educational-development/curriculum-development/nichtfachliche-kompetenzen/wissenschaftliches-schreiben.html>

# Presenters

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**Moodle for Scientific  
Writing Courses**

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**Academic Writing for  
Specific Purposes**

# Refresh Teaching

Upcoming event:

- December 5th  
(HG D18.1)

**Improving student  
learning with  
individual feedback**

**Refresh Teaching will be continued in 2018!!**

Further information and registration:

[www.refreshteaching.ethz.ch](http://www.refreshteaching.ethz.ch)

