

# Contents

Preface vii

## Part I. What Writing Is

1. On Bacon, Hobbes, and Newton, and the  
Selfishness of Writing Well 3
2. Genius, Craft, and What This Book Is About 11

## Part II. Behavior

3. Reading 17
4. Managing Your Writing Behavior 22
5. Getting Started 30
6. Momentum 42

## Part III. Content and Structure

7. Finding and Telling Your Story 57
8. The Canonical Structure of the Scientific Paper 74
9. Front Matter and Abstract 79
10. The Introduction Section 84
11. The Methods Section 89
12. The Results Section 99
13. The Discussion Section 120
14. Back Matter 126
15. Citations 132
16. Deviations from the IMRaD Canon 138



## Part IV. Style

17. Paragraphs 149

18. Sentences 159

19. Words 174

20. Brevity 182

## Part V. Revision

21. Self-Revision 193

22. Friendly Review 204

23. Formal Review 211

24. Revision and the “Response to Reviews” 222

## Part VI. Some Loose Threads

25. The Diversity of Writing Forms 233

26. Managing Coauthorships 247

27. Writing in English for Non-Native Speakers 260

## Part VII. Final Thoughts

28. On Whimsy, Jokes, and Beauty: Can Scientific Writing Be Enjoyed? 273

*Acknowledgements* 287

*References* 289

*Permanent URLs* 299

*Index* 303