

BOOKS ON WRITING WELL

"I never study style: all that I do is to try to get the subject as clear as I can in my own head, and express it in the commonest language which occurs to me. But I generally have to think a good deal before the simplest arrangement and words occur to me."

– Charles Darwin

Good writing is clear, persuasive, and a pleasure to read. It's what we demand from novels and newspapers when we read for enjoyment. In academic life, a good writing style will help you to communicate complex ideas and information to a readership whose judgment matters to you. Examiners, editors, and reviewers know that clear prose reflects clear thinking: they value both highly. Put simply, writing well can enhance your career.

Here are some books that can help:

On Writing Well : the classic guide to writing nonfiction by William Zinsser (Classmark ZB)

Zinsser's four basic premises of good writing are clarity, brevity, simplicity, and humanity. His own style demonstrates all these qualities; it's why *On Writing Well* has been through seven editions since it was first published in 1976. Buy this book and read it often. You'll enjoy it and your writing will improve.

The Elements of Style by William Strunk Jr. and E.B White (Classmark ZB)

Commonly known as 'Strunk and White', *The Elements of Style* has been canonical for generations of students and professional writers. It teaches usage, composition, and voice in a vigorous, pithy style. It's also cheap and pocket-sized. Buy this book and keep it by your writing desk.

How to Write a Lot : a practical guide to productive academic writing by Paul J. Silva (Classmark K4)

Here's how to increase your output, decrease your guilt, and leave your leisure time intact. This friendly text also explains the academic publishing process and gives tips on writing style. Primarily written for psychologists, *How to Write a Lot* can help in any academic discipline.

MHRA Style Guide : a handbook for authors, editors, and writers of theses by the Modern Humanities Research Association (Classmark ZB)

How to present academic writing and get all the details right. The guide covers everything from numbering pages to writing an index. Download the full text in pdf format at:

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