Fake News, Real Science   Writing 101
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Tips for Peer Review

rules before you start
    A. Understand the material before writing.
    B. Have something to say.
    C. Know who your target audience is.
    D. The value of science writing is based on its usefulness.
    E. Comment on strong as well as weak components.

1. structure
Can you identify the 7 main parts?
  (title, student author, figure/table, introduction, argument, counter argument, conclusion)
Is the student author clearly distinct from data author?

2. overview
What is the central claim and what supports it?
What is most promising feature?
What least helpful feature?
Are grammatical errors distracting?

3. introduction
Does the reader see the context for this document?
Is the problem defined?
Are terms defined?

4. figure/table
Are the data legible?
Is there a title, with legend for figures?
Is it a copy, or redrawn with simplifying modifications?
Can you see the source attribution?

5. argument
Does the argument rely on the data?
Does the argument make a clear point?
Could the argument be restructured?
Can you suggest ways to strengthen the argument?

6. counter-argument
Are alternative interpretations offered and refuted?
Do the data have weaknesses that are addressed?

7. conclusion
Is the conclusion clearly stated and easy to understand?
Does the ending fit with the introduction?
Do you accept the conclusion? (accept, not believe)
Do you want to read more like this?

References
1. Peer review, introduction, conclusion handouts written by Dr. Van Hillard, Davidson College Writing Program (with permission)
2. Greene, Anne E. 2013. Writing Science in Plain English. 124 pages. The University of Chicago Press. Chicago, IL. ISBN: 978-0-226-02637-4
3. Elliot, Leslie Atkins, Kim Jaxon and Irene Salter. 2017. Composing Science: A facilitator's guide to writing in the science classroom. 163 pages. Teacher's College Press. NY, NY. ISBN: 978-0-8077-5806-9.