

## Tips for Writing Scientific Papers: A Stream of Consciousness Checklist &

### Practical Steps For Editing and Revising Writing

*Marian Goldsmith, Friday, January 27th 2006*



#### Tips for Overall Writing Process:

- Procrastination: Everything is a draft.
- Nothing's perfect—Not first, not later.
- 85% is better than most.
- Reviewers help.
- Do the easy stuff first (Organize Data, Materials and Methods).
- Ideas come.
- Intro Last (will probably need rewriting).
- Linear vs Non-Linear thinkers (different process?).
- Creating Editing.
- Brainstorming (nonlinear).
- Blocks of time.
- Startup (limits?).

#### Tips for Editing

- Audience (“new mind”—Alan Ginsberg).
- Use a model, Handbooks.
- Simplify/streamline expression (see Handout).
- First Person, Active voice (depends on field).
- Consistent tense.
- Scan for one thing at a time.