

5C: Observe & Analyze II

Chris Phare, Graduate Research Fellow, Electrical & Computer Engineering [00:00:02] All right, let's get started. Today I just wanted to go over the draft lab reports from last week. Yeah?

Student [00:00:08] Did you grade them?

Chris Phare [00:00:10] Actually, not yet. So I'm going to let you turn them in next time for a final grade after you revise them.

Student [00:00:15] How did we do? Were they good?

Chris Phare [00:00:17] Pretty well, actually, yeah. There were a few common errors that I just wanted to go over as a class, so everyone gets that. So first, at least a handful of you left out a description of the experimental setup and the exact procedures you followed in lab. I know it seems like it's not important because lab is set up for you, but science is all about communicating clearly and communicating exactly what you did so other people can repeat it and test your conclusions. So make sure you look back at your lab report and include a nice detailed introduction to that. And then in the analysis section, check over any equations you have, make sure your graphs are clearly presented with titles and labeled axes. The goal here is to tell a story about how you got from your experiment to your conclusion, and if you're sloppy in the section, it doesn't really make me want to believe that story. And then finally in the discussion section, a lot of people just concluded they did the experiments correctly or that any errors are just random accidents. It's a lot more important here to be able to guess what went wrong than to act like you were the perfect model student in lab because real research rarely goes like you planned. Make sense to everybody? Okay, let's move on then. Today, we're going to do a peer review session of the drafts I just handed back so you can provide each other with feedback. So in just a minute, we're going to pair up and I'll give you the next twenty minutes to look over your partner's draft and and make note of anything you see. All right? Any questions?

Student [00:01:42] What exactly should we be looking for, anything specific?

Chris Phare [00:01:46] Well, I mean, think about the feedback I already have on your drafts and the assignment guidelines for this and just see if you can add anything to that to kind of make the paper more complete as a whole.

Student [00:01:58] Yeah, I was just wondering, I see you wrote a good amount of feedback on my draft. What do I do if my partner gives me feedback that goes against what you wrote? Or what if I can't think of anything else to add to my partner's draft? Because I think you've covered everything.

Chris Phare [00:02:14] Yeah, I mean, it's it's important to get feedback from multiple directions, right, and not just me. So hopefully as the writer, you can kind of balance these ideas and just come up with a better paper in general.

Student [00:02:25] And should we be writing our feedback?

Chris Phare [00:02:29] You can write it down or you can just remember it and discuss it with your partner when you're done. So if there's no more questions, let's go ahead and pair up.

Student [00:03:06] It's almost done with mine?

Student [00:03:11] Yeah, I think so. Honestly, this was hard. I noted where you missed a couple of periods or forgot an apostrophe, but otherwise I just kind of agreed with what the professor wrote. What about mine?

Student [00:03:26] It was really good. A couple of things like missed an axis label here, and the professor said maybe just describe the experiment a little more in detail, but this was pretty solid.

Student [00:03:38] Cool, yeah, the professor said I didn't follow the directions for the experiment section but you just said to add to those two places, so I think I can manage that.

Student [00:03:47] Yeah.

Student [00:03:48] Oh, and did you write down the common errors?

Student [00:03:51] Oh, no, I should have really taken notes. Excuse me, Professor?

Chris Phare [00:03:54] Yeah.

Student [00:03:54] Do you have a list of the common errors that you share?

Chris Phare [00:03:57] Yeah, they're on my computer.

Student [00:03:58] Do you think you could post them on the course forum so I can, like, check them out before I revise?

Chris Phare [00:04:02] Yeah, I can definitely do that. Okay, everyone, I just wanted to let you know that I'm going to post that list of common errors on the course website this evening so you guys can go over that while you're reviewing things. Would that would be helpful? Okay, great.