

A Field Guide for Science Writers: The Official Guide of the National Association of Science Writers

From Blum, Deborah (EDT)/ Knudson, Mary (EDT)/ Henig, Robin Marantz (EDT)

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This is the official text for the National Association of Science Writers. In the eight years since the publication of the first edition of *A Field Guide for Science Writing*, much about the world has changed. Some of the leading issues in today's political marketplace - embryonic stem cell research, global warming, health care reform, space exploration, genetic privacy, germ warfare - are informed by scientific ideas. Never has it been more crucial for the lay public to be scientifically literate. That's where science writers come in. And that's why it's time for an update to the *Field Guide*, already a staple of science writing graduate programs across the country.

The academic community has recently recognized how important it is for writers to become more sophisticated, knowledgeable, and skeptical about what they write. More than 50 institutions now offer training in science writing. In addition mid-career fellowships for science writers are growing, giving journalists the chance to return to major universities for specialized training. We applaud these developments, and hope to be part of them with this new edition of the *Field Guide*.

In *A Field Guide for Science Writers, 2nd Edition*, the editors have assembled contributions from a collections of experienced journalists who are every bit as stellar as the group that contributed to the first edition. In the end, what we have are essays written by the very best in the science writing profession. These wonderful writers have written not only about style, but about content, too. These leaders in the profession describe how they work their way through the information glut to find the gems worth writing about. We also have chapters that provide the tools every good science writer needs: how to use statistics, how to weigh the merits of conflicting studies in scientific literature, how to report about risk. And, ultimately, how to write.

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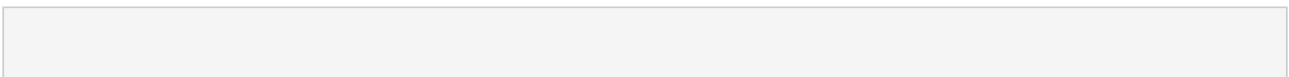
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Editorial Review

From the Publisher

From cloning to global warming, it is the most provocative issues in science that are becoming increasingly prominent in everyday life. At the same time, however, the extent of scientific knowledge has grown, and the nexus of available knowledge has become too complex for the nonscientist to navigate. Never before has the work of science writers, who bridge the gap between professional scientists and the public, been more essential.

The best guide for teaching and learning effective science writing, this second edition of *A Field Guide for Science Writers* improves on the classic first edition with a wider range of topics, a new slate of writers, and an up-to-date exploration of the most stimulating and challenging issues in science. In this collection of essays, nationally known science writers Deborah Blum, Mary Knudson, and Robin Marantz Henig assemble the best science writers working today to explain what they do and how to do it well. The book combines detailed and practical how-to advice with thoughtful discussions of the challenges of science journalism in the 21st century and doesn't shy away from addressing such controversial matters as cloning, stem cell research, eugenics, medical overtreatment, and questions of scientific honesty. Offering a comprehensive overview of the field of science writing, this book discusses a broad range of media and sources, from newspapers to broadcast journalism and from corporations to government agencies. It also provides a detailed analysis of some of the hottest fields in science writing -- ranging from mental health to human genetics -- and covers a diverse array of writing styles, from "gee-whiz" to investigative.

Written by people who work for such leading news outlets as *Scientific American*, *Popular Science*, *Discover*, *Smithsonian*, *The New York Times*, and *The Wall Street Journal*, this book is an invaluable resource for current and aspiring science writers, students and instructors in science writing and journalism, and scientists who are interested in science communication.

About the Author

Deborah Blum is a Pulitzer Prize winning science writer, former president of the National Association of Science Writers, and Professor of journalism at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is the author of such award-winning books as *Love at Goon Park: Harry Harlow and the Science of Affection*, *Sex on the Brain*, and *The Monkey Wars*. She has also written for *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Discover*, *Psychology Today*, *Life*, *Health*, *The Utne Reader*, *Mother Jones*, and *discovery.com*.

Mary Knudson is a medical writer at work on a book on heart failure to be published by the Johns Hopkins University Press. She wrote about medicine for the *Baltimore Sun* for seventeen years and won an NASW Science-in-Society Award. On the Primary Faculty at the Johns Hopkins University Master of Arts in Writing Program, she teaches science/medical writing and the Literature of Science.

Robin Marantz Henig is a contributing writer for the *New York Times Magazine* and author of 8 books, including *Pandora's Baby* (2004) and *The Monk in the Garden* (2000). She is a winner of the 2004 NASW Science-in-Society Award and three-time recipient of the June Roth Memorial Award for medical writing. Her writing appears in *The Best American Science Writing 2005*.

Users Review

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Jean Ashburn:

This A Field Guide for Science Writers: The Official Guide of the National Association of Science Writers book is not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you will get by reading this book is actually information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get info which is getting deeper an individual read a lot of information you will get. This specific A Field Guide for Science Writers: The Official Guide of the National Association of Science Writers without we comprehend teach the one who reading it become critical in contemplating and analyzing. Don't end up being worry A Field Guide for Science Writers: The Official Guide of the National Association of Science Writers can bring once you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' come to be full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even telephone. This A Field Guide for Science Writers: The Official Guide of the National Association of Science Writers having excellent arrangement in word along with layout, so you will not truly feel uninterested in reading.

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