

The role of writing for undergraduates in science and technology

Writing assists a young scientist to communicate effectively using science language and reasoning. It is an effective tool for learning as well as a tool to communicate ideas and writing for a variety of purposes and audiences. This paper discusses the role of writing in science and technology especially for undergraduate students. Early mentoring is expected to lead more innovative researchers. It explores how scientific inquiry is enhanced leading to excellence and innovative research by engaging in argument from evidence offering different perspectives on the same complex and unfolding issues. Writing in science and technology inspires reading science and provides models for creating own writings. A scientific community should be involved in substantial discussion of readings and writing workshops in which there is constructive criticism from peers. Mentoring young researchers can be done in various fora including creative writing, developing and using models and scientific interaction and collaboration among students and the research community. One such forum is the International Undergraduate Research Symposium (IURS), it augments the undergraduate students' research experience with a platform to present their research projects and meet other young scientists from different countries and continents in poster presentations. Posters are judged by a panel including scientists from the industry to increase interaction with real issues and steer them towards outstanding and innovative research projects relevant to the industry. Rewards may include an internship at the research and development division of the local company or a scholarship or a monetary gift. The added benefit of IURS is that it exposes students to different cultures and promotes peace.