

A Guide to Effective Scientific Communication

Phrase	Translation
It has long been known	I haven't bothered to look up the reference
It is believed	I think
It is generally believed	A couple of other guys think so too
It is not unreasonable to assume	If you believe this, you'll believe anything
Of great theoretical importance	I find it kind of interesting
Of great practical importance	I can get some mileage out of it
Typical results are shown	The best results are shown
3 samples were chosen for further study	The others didn't make sense, so we ignored them
The 4 hour sample was not studied	I dropped it on the floor
The 4 hour determination may not be significant	I dropped it on the floor, but scooped most of it up
The significance of these results is unclear	Look at the pretty artifact
It has not been possible to provide definitive answers	The experiment was negative, but at least I can publish the data somewhere
Correct within an order of magnitude	Wrong
It might be argued that	I have such a good answer for this objection that I shall now raise it
Much additional work will be required	This paper is not very good, but neither are all the others in this miserable field
These investigations proved highly rewarding	My grant is going to be renewed
I thank <i>X</i> for assistance with the experiments and <i>Y</i> for useful discussions on the interpretation of	<i>X</i> did the experiment and <i>Y</i> explained it to me