

Science Journalism & Science Communications Resources



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FINDING STORY IDEAS

- [*National Association of Science Writers Tips*](#)
- [*How to Read a Scientific Paper*](#)
- [*Reading the Journals*](#)
- [*Finding the Science in Any Story*](#)
- [*Ask TON: Using PIOs to Hunt Stories*](#)

PITCHING A STORY

- [*How to Pitch to a Science Editor*](#)
- [*Open Notebook Pitch Database \(200+ successful pitches\)*](#)
- [*Four Steps to a Successful Pitch*](#)

REPORTING THE STORY

- [*Is Anyone Out There? Sourcing News Stories*](#)
- [*Solving the Diversity Dearth in Science Writing*](#)
- [*Examples of Diverse Voices in Science Journalism*](#)
- [*Asking for Interviews — and Getting Them*](#)

WRITING THE STORY

- *Story Structure*

REVISING / WORKING WITH EDITOR

- *Are Edits Suggestions or Demands?*

FACT CHECKING

- [*NASW Fact Checking 101*](#)
- [*Wisc. Center for Investigative Journalism Fact Check Guidelines*](#)
- [*The Open Notebook: How to Fact Check*](#)

FINDING A SCIENCE-WRITING COMMUNITY

- [*Breaking Into Science Writing*](#)
- [*NPR Science Communication Community*](#)

FINDING GRAD PROGRAMS IN SCIENCE WRITING, COMMUNICATION, AND JOURNALISM

- [*Explore Masters Degree in Communications*](#)

FINDING MENTORS

- [*NASW Perlman Mentoring Program in Science Writing*](#)

USING PUBPEER

- [*PubPeer, Where Scientific Researchers Critique Each Other's Work.*](#)
- [*Five Tips for Using PubPeer to Investigate Scientific Research Errors and Misconduct*](#)

WHEN SCIENCE GOES ASTRAY

- [*Five Tips for Reporting on Scientific Failures and Holding the Science Community Accountable*](#)

CHANGING THE PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF SCIENCE

- *Bolstering Science by Accurately Framing the Scientific Process*

UNDERSTANDING PEER REVIEW

- [*What's Peer Review? Five Things to Know Before Covering Research*](#)

GETTING SMART ABOUT STATISTICS

- *Five Things Journalists Need to Know About Statistical Significance*

DELIVERING CLEAR MESSAGE ABOUT RESEARCH

- *Escape the Ivory Tower: A Guide to Making Your Science Matter*

USING TOP TRAINING AND EDUCATION RESOURCES

- [Harvard's "The Journalist's Resource"](#)
- [TON: The Open Notebook](#)
- [NASW: National Assn. of Science Writers](#)

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1. Research and Preparation:

- . *Research editor's outlet and understand content preferences.*
- . *Match your pitch to the publication's style and content.*
- . *Ensure your pitch is unique and not similar to recent stories.*
- . *Follow the publication's pitching guidelines.*
- . *Demonstrate knowledge of the publication's audience.*

2. Crafting the Pitch:

- *Develop a compelling story idea summarized in one sentence.*
- *Be specific and pitch a focused story idea, not a broad topic.*
- *Highlight why your story is newsworthy and relevant.*
- *Connect your pitch to current news or developments.*
- *Include info about your sources, preferably independent ones.*
- *Keep pitches short, clear, and free from jargon.*
- *Introduce yourself briefly if you're a new writer.*
- *Share up to three links to previous work or explain your expertise.*

3. Pitch Checklist:

- *Include contact details at the top.*
- *Specify timing, location, and embargo details.*
- *Provide a catchy cover line and a suggested headline.*
- *Summarize the concept in a 100-word summary.*
- *Explain any unique angles to the story.*
- *Offer links to relevant research.*
- *Share press release or journal article links if applicable.*