

**CMPSC 580**  
**Topics and Research Methods in Computer Science**  
**Spring 2015**

**Assignment 19**  
*On Being a Scientist, Bugs in Writing*  
**Précis and Bug Report due Friday, 27 March**

**Part 1: Write a Précis**

Focusing on issues related to research misconduct, please read pages 15–24 of the book *On Being a Scientist* and write a short, half-page précis of this material, using L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X.

**Part 2: Create a “Bug Report”**

Read segments 8, 21, 27, 60, and 149 of *Bugs in Writing* (BIW). In a separate section of the same L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X document, create a “bug report”: for each of these topics, provide an example (different from any in the *BIW* book, on a topic related to computer science) of a “bad” or “ugly” usage, then show how it would be corrected to form a “good” or (preferably) “splendid” sentence.

If you can identify a faulty sentence that fit the segments 8, 21, 27 and 60 from one of your own papers (submitted for this course or another computer science course), that would be ideal—you are learning to edit yourself! If not, see if you can locate a bug from a reputable publication or Web site, or publications we have read for this module. If neither of these is possible, you may compose your own original example. For segment 149, you should also give a personal example of writer’s block, or if you have never had one, simply explain what a writer’s block is and how to handle it.

Always identify the source of any references, even if it is from one of your own papers.

**Instructions and Reminders**

Submit a printed copy of your précis and bug report at the beginning of class on Friday, 27 March. Be prepared to take part in a class discussion of the contents of the assigned chapters in both books.

Remember that in this and all other assignments submitted for CMPSC 580, you are expected to adhere to professional standards of writing and formatting. As you are writing and revising, please pay attention to grammar, spelling, style, and formatting conventions.

***Work together!*** Remember, you are all part of a research group and as such you should collaborate, read and critique one another’s work, brainstorm ideas, seek advice from others in the class, and offer help when you are able to provide it—while also adhering to the Honor Code.