

THE PSYCHOLOGIST'S COMPANION

A Guide to Professional Success for Students, Teachers,
and Researchers

Sixth Edition

The Psychologist's Companion (sixth edition) is written for students, young professionals, and even mid-career scholars. It is the most comprehensive guide available to both written and oral communication processes for academic psychologists. It covers the topics necessary for career success, including planning papers, writing papers, presenting data, evaluating one's papers, writing grant proposals, giving talks, finding a book publisher, doing job interviews, and doing media interviews. Because the book is in its sixth edition, it is market tested for success in reaching and engaging its readers. Three special (new) pedagogical features are "Experience is the best teacher," which draws on the authors' personal experiences to help make the book more personalized and exciting to readers, "What's wrong here?," which gives readers an opportunity for active learning while they read the book, and "Give it some more thought," which encourages readers to reflect further on what they have read. The authors have written the book in a personable and often humorous style that will keep readers engaged.

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Preface

The Psychologist's Companion has been comprehensively updated, revised, and extended for this sixth edition. It is intended for students as well as young professionals and writers at all stages of their careers seeking inspiration and definitive guidelines for better scientific communication. The book is a tremendous resource not only for psychologists but for researchers in other fields as well.

- The sixth edition includes the latest style guidelines of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, sixth edition.
- A new chapter has been added on preparing a poster presentation.
- A new chapter has been added that presents a checklist before submitting an article for publication.
- A new chapter has been added on doing a job interview.
- A new chapter has been added on doing media interviews.
- The chapter on writing lectures has been substantially expanded.
- We have added boxes called “Experience is the best teacher.” The purpose of these boxes is to call out major points about careers in psychology that we have learned from our experiences over the years.
- We have added “Give it some more thought” boxes to encourage reflection.
- We have added boxes called “What’s wrong here?” for students to apply what they have learned to figuring out what in the box should be different.
- Many new examples have been added to increase clarity.
- Existing examples have been updated where appropriate.
- Checklists have been added to many of the chapters.

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- Advance organizers have been added to provide an overview of the guidelines in a given chapter.
- The revised *Psychologist's Companion* is now aimed not only at students but also at junior faculty and even seasoned professionals seeking guidance.
- All chapters contain enumerated headers for easier use of the book.
- The book is printed in a more reader-friendly format.

Further covered, with vital updates, are topics such as misconceptions about psychology papers; rules for writing literature reviews and experimental papers; how best to make use of the Internet in research; content, language, and style guidelines; commonly misused words; guidelines for data presentation; standards for evaluating papers; guidelines for submitting papers to journals and winning acceptance; how to write grant and contract proposals; how to find book publishers; and how to write lectures and articles. The book is written in a lively and witty style that will make it easy reading for even the busiest student or professional.

Some readers will work their way through this book from cover to cover. Others will read only selected chapters. For the sake of the latter readers, we sometimes have repeated in later chapters material mentioned in earlier chapters. If a point is relevant to a chapter, we include it to ensure that readers can learn it. Moreover, we believe, as do pretty much all our fellow cognitive psychologists, that occasional repetition helps reinforce important points throughout the book.



Acknowledgments

Chapter 9 contains a summary of the guidelines in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (sixth edition). We gratefully acknowledge the *APA Publication Manual's* contribution to this chapter.