Advanced Research Methods and Skills – 2

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Scientific communication

- open
- clear
- careful
- value-free, or else clear where the values come from
- fact-based, and where not fact-based very clear about it

Facts come from:

- earlier studies (referenences, pages if needed)
- the study conducted (experimental evidence, combination of information sources)

In case you *think* something is the case, you can tell so, and explain why. This may be very relevant. Using the "I" or "we" form is then effective.

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Communications

Communications include:

- proposals and/or papers you write
- presentations you give
- communication to other students and colleagues
- communications to the community: editors, reviewers, supervisors,
- public communication (press, forums, mailing lists)
- open source software (contributions)
- blogs, tweets,
- ...

Written texts always show which attitude you take.

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Attitude

Should be, preferrably:

- ▶ Direct
- ▶ Positive
- ▶ Value-free
- ▶ Equal
- ▶ Respectful, inviting, not humble.

If you think something, but express it as truth, you will create resistance. If you say that *you* think so, or *believe* that, you leave room for other opinions and you stimulate discussion, debate. Another way is to formulate what you think as a question – comments tend to invite less reaction.

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Plagiarism

The following is from:
http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm and
from:
http://www.environment.uwaterloo.ca/geography/courses/geog355.html
, taken Mar 2, 2009:

*Plagiarism is defined in the policy as the act of presenting the
ideas, words or other intellectual property of another as ones own.
The use of other peoples work must be properly acknowledged and
referenced in all written material such as take-home data, computer
programs and research results. The properly acknowledged use of
sources is an accepted and important part of scholarship. Use of
such material without complete and unambiguous
acknowledgement, however, is an offence under this policy.*

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Plagiarism or referencing? When you copy-and-paste through your literature, make sure that whenever you copy more than 3 words in a row, you add the reference. When you then use this sentence, be clear it was not your sentence, and keep the source/reference to the text.

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