

# GEOSCIENCE REPORTING GUIDELINES

By **Brian Grant, PGeo**



Exploration Geology  
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Economic Geology

# **Geoscience Reporting Guidelines**

**Brian Grant, PGeo**

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Presentation is the twin of content. Information can be missed, or insignificant material made prominent, merely by the skills, or lack thereof, of an author. This manual recommends guidelines to help simplify the writing process. It also presents a brief insight into the reasoning behind the presentation of some geoscience information. However, it cannot make up for limited data, poor science or lack of scientific creativity. The burden in producing scientific reports always lies with the author, but it can be minimized with appropriate tools and preparation.

A geoscience report may have impact far beyond the information it contains; it may have import for the continuance of an exploration program, the final criteria for an advanced degree, enlightening public shareholders, or establishing and maintaining rights to mineral tenure. With this in mind, it is important to plan ahead and ensure that all elements, required for an effective report, are considered during the fieldwork phase. It is then important to convey clearly and concisely the nature and significance of the data and interpretations.

A wealth of geoscience experience, sound knowledge of the intended audience, excellent grammar, inspirational writing style, a flair for marketing and presentation, and adequate preparation time, all provide a foundation for impressive reports. That these elements may not always be balanced, highlights the value of guidelines for preparing, editing and presenting geoscience information.

Reporting program results in a timely and professional manner is critical for geoscientists. Such reporting can have varied audiences and equally diverse objectives. Individual companies and organizations usually have specific administrative requirements for reports, which are dictated by their intended audience. However, the knowledge gained by professionals in the field must be made available to employers, peers, governments or the public, in a style and format that allows clear and unambiguous understanding of the material. Report content, style and design greatly affect the perceived quality of the geoscience research and the credibility of the resulting data.

These guidelines are intended to help bring elements of scientific excellence and dynamic presentation together in a professional and easily understood format. However, it is also important to acknowledge that much of our style and usage is affected by the technologies applied, both to the basic research and to the methods of report preparation. These technologies are evolving rapidly, and the methods of data collection, preparation and presentation suggested in this guide should evolve accordingly.

*Brian Grant*  
*"Your words reflect who you are."*

## Acknowledgments

This manual is a greatly expanded and revised version of my original guidelines published in late 1999. Enhancements to the original were made in the light of constructive criticism and encouragement from readers, which has been much appreciated. In an age of globalization, it has been particularly encouraging to see such a broad demand for a book of this type.

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Many of the scientific guidelines and standards presented here, are derived from those established over time, in particular, those from authors, regulatory agencies and geological surveys in North America, Europe and Australia. Additional insight into language and usage, has been gleaned from many commercial style guides.

I also thank all my friends and associates in the minerals industry. Over the years they have helped considerably to improve my style, and focus my attention on how best to present critical data and produce an effective geoscience report.

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