

# Developing your style

- 1** Avoid worrying about style when writing your first draft. Focus instead on content and structure.
- 2** Then edit for style. Ensure you have sufficient variety in:
  - a.** sentence length
  - b.** paragraph length
  - c.** voice (that is, active and passive)
  - d.** grammatical person (first and third person)  
– so far as the norms in your discipline allow.
- 3** Next, read your work aloud. Your voice will tell you where the language feels fluent and rhythmical.
- 4** Also use your ears: use your computer's text-to-speech function to help you listen to the language of your text.
- 5** Give sample passages to non-specialists and ask them to comment on the style.

*This resource is published as the sixth in the Writing Protocols series.*

## Resources for developing your style

Helen Sword, *Stylish academic writing* (Harvard University Press, 2012)

Harry Blamires, *Compose yourself: and write good English* (Penguin, 2003)

*Explorations of style: a blog about academic writing:*  
[explorationsofstyle.com](http://explorationsofstyle.com)

Chrome Speak (text-to-speech app) – available from  
[chrome.google.com/webstore](http://chrome.google.com/webstore)

## About Frontinus

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