



CSCI 202 Research Methods

Writing pointers

“Come scrivere bene”, Umberto Eco

Source:

La Bustina di Minerva, Bompiani 2000

<https://www.aforismario.eu/2019/05/come-scrivere-bene.html>

“How to write well”

Avoid clichés: they are rotten to the core.

© Don't use commercial
symbols™ & abbreviations, etc.

Never generalize.

Remember (always) that parentheses (even when they are indispensable) interrupt the flow of your writing.

Using foreign words is not
apropos.

Don't be redundant; don't repeat the same thing twice; repetitions are superfluous (redundancies are explanations of something that the reader has already understood.)

Always be more or less specific.

Don't write one word sentences.

Never.

Use, commas, in the right, place.

Understand the difference between the semi-colon and the colon: even if it is not easy.

Are rhetorical questions really
necessary?

Don't be overly emphatic! Don't
abuse the exclamations!

Don't bungle the spelling of foreign names like Beaudelaire, Coosteau, Nietzsche, and the like.

Be punctillious with the orthografy.

Don't mix up cause and effect: you would be wrong and therefore you'd have made an error.

You shouldn't be verbose, but you should not write less than.

A complete sentence must always
have

“Sedici semplici suggerimenti”, Beppe Severgnini

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“Sixteen simple suggestions”

Have something to say.

Say it.

Say it clearly.

Say it accurately.

Say it in an interesting way.

Don't say it again.

And please: don't abuse the
adverbs.