“How to Write Publishable Papers”  
*Clara Deser, Editor, Journal of Climate*

- **Don’t underestimate the time it takes to write a good paper** (for me, 3-6 months)

- **Take the time to have your paper edited by a native English speaker** (better chance for a successful review process, higher impact of your paper)

- **Importance of high-quality figures and well-written figure captions**

- **Keep to page-length limit** (may need to omit some material; stay focused; use supplemental web pages)

- **Give a talk before writing the paper**

- **Learn to write by example** (pick your favorite author and analyze their papers for writing style and figure presentation)

- **Choose your title well**
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Some practical steps:

- **Present results in an organized fashion** (Intro, Methods, Results, Discussion, Summary)

- **Stay focused:** don’t anticipate results that haven’t been shown yet; describe a figure fully or don’t show it

- **Avoid too much speculation and discussion/interpretation in the Results section**

- **Reference the literature well**

- **Review Process:** pay attention to responses to reviewers

- **Publication Process:** take the time to read your page proofs, including figure captions
One of my favorite authors:

John Michael Wallace, Department of Atmospheric Sciences, University of Washington

www.atmos.washington.edu/wallace.html
Author unknown