

MODULE 1
SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION, PUBLICATIONS,
AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

TOPIC 1. Writing an Academic Profile

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment 1. Read the following information and analyse the examples of authors' bios from the blurbs:

WHAT IS THE AUTHOR'S BIO

Information about the author appears in various formats. It may be given in the blurb of a book to acquaint readers with the writer's childhood, education, most significant works, genre/s and style or writing. What makes it important is that a bio either gives a book a kick or fails it. Here is a brief list of tips on writing an author's bio:

- start with an outline and try to tie some key info about the author to the story or a particular book;
- an outline can include some research, work the author has done in a related industry, accreditations, other books they've written, or awards they've won;
- always write in the third person (e.g. He has appeared as a guest in ...);
- increase your credibility and demonstrate your expertise to the audience;
- be personal if appropriate;
- include an element of humour when appropriate;
- keep short because readers would like to know who wrote the story/book; you may refer your readers to a relevant website where they can learn more about the author;
- customize and modify the bio if there are some changes that tie into a story/book;
- it is worth mentioning some recent reviews.

The following examples are from Amazon website: <https://www.amazon.com/>

Edgar Allan Poe (January 19, 1809 - October 7, 1849) was an American writer, poet, editor, and literary critic. Poe is best known for his poetry and short stories, particularly his tales of mystery and the macabre. He is widely regarded as a central figure of Romanticism in the United States and of American literature as a whole, and he was one of the country's earliest practitioners of the short story. He is also generally considered the inventor of the detective fiction genre and is further credited with contributing to the emerging genre of science fiction. Poe was the first well-known American writer to earn a living through writing alone, resulting in a financially difficult life and career.

“An absorbing, beautifully and tenderly absurd, heartbreaking narrative . . .
a truly gripping story, told in lean, hard, athletic prose . . . magnificent.”

—*The New York Times*



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ERNEST HEMINGWAY did more to change the style of English prose than any other writer of his time. The publications of *The Sun Also Rises* and *A Farewell to Arms* immediately established Hemingway as one of the greatest literary lights of the twentieth century. His classic novella *The Old Man and the Sea* won the Pulitzer Prize in 1953. Hemingway was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1954. He died in 1961.

MARK W. SCHAEFER has more more than 30 years of experience in global marketing, organizational development, and business consulting. He teaches at Rutgers University. Learn more about Mark at www.businessesGROW.com.

“Possibly the shortest and most elegant autobiography ever written.”

—From the Afterword by
Russell Baker

Widely hailed as one of the finest humorists of the twentieth century, James Thurber looks back at his own life growing up in Columbus, Ohio, with the same humor and sharp wit that defined his famous sketches and writings. In *My Life and Hard Times*, first published in 1933, he recounts the delightful chaos and frustrations of family, boyhood, youth, odd dogs, recalcitrant machinery, and the foibles of human nature.

“Thurber’s *My Life and Hard Times* is just about the best thing I’ve ever read.” —Ogden Nash

“As a humorist Thurber is contemporary and timeless.” —*The Spectator*



JAMES THURBER was born in Columbus, Ohio, in 1894. Famous for his humorous writings and illustrations, he was a staff member of *The New Yorker* for more than thirty years. He died in 1961.

Assignment 2. Study the rules of writing an academic profile. Focus on the format (short vs long) biography, its structure, scope, and style.

An *academic bio* (or *academic profile*), a quick “about the author”, is a special genre of academic writing. Being a common practice in scholarly journals, it accompanies a research article to provide information about the author. As it is written for a reader, it is necessary to know your prospective readers and what they are looking for.

Study the tips on *How to write a good academic biography* at:

<https://www.enago.com/academy/writing-a-good-academic-biography/>

<https://www.enago.com/academy/how-to-write-a-good-academic-biography-part-2/>

Answer the questions:

How do you sum up yourself and your work in 3-5 sentences?

What do you need to include?

What should you leave out?

How would you begin writing?

How long should it be?

Where can you use your longer academic biography?

Assignment 3. Analyse the following examples of academic profiles:

Source: Holmes P., Reynolds J., Ganassin S. The Politics of Researching Multilingually. Bristol : Multilingual Matters, 2022. 392 p.

Olga Camila Hernández Morales has a bachelor’s degree in Foreign Languages from Universidad Distrital Francisco José de Caldas, Bogotá, a master’s in Education from Universidad Pedagógica Nacional and a PhD in Education from Universidad de los Andes, Colombia. Her areas of research interest lie at the intersection of educational context, languages, culture, interculturality, identity and decolonial studies.

Prue Holmes is a Professor of Intercultural Communication and Education, and Director of Research at the School of Education, Durham University, UK. Her research areas include critical intercultural pedagogies for intercultural communication, language and intercultural education, and multilingualism in research and doctoral education. Prue has worked on several international projects. She was the former chair of the *International Association of Languages and Intercultural Communication* (IALIC) and she is the lead editor of the Multilingual Matters book series *Researching Multilingually*.

Christiana Holsapple is a PhD candidate in the Institute for Cultural Studies at the University of Tartu in Estonia. Her work explores experiences of belonging, linguistic practices, and use of identity categories in Gagauzia, particularly how they interplay with contemporary nation-building projects.

Source: Cook V., Ryan D. The Routledge Handbook of the English Writing System. New York : Routledge, 2016. 564 p.

Jennifer Bann has a PhD in Victorian ghost stories and spiritualism from the University of Stirling, UK. Until recently she worked at the University of Glasgow, UK, where her research interests included Scots language, digital humanities, medical humanities and corpus linguistics. She now works for the civil service.

Vivian Cook is Emeritus Professor of Applied Linguistics at Newcastle University, UK. His main interests are how people learn second languages and the written language of street signs. He is a founder of the European Second Language Association and co-editor of the journal *Writing Systems Research*.

John Corbett is Head of the Department of English at the University of Macau, China, and a senior research fellow at the University of Glasgow, UK. His research interests include Scots language and literature, digital humanities and intercultural language education.

Florian Coulmas is Professor of Japanese Society and Sociolinguistics at the Institute of East Asian Studies (IN-EAST) of the University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany. His scholarly publications are in the sociology of language and Japanese studies. He is currently working on a project about language policy.

D. W. Cummings is Emeritus Professor of English at Central Washington University, USA, whose major works in English orthography are *American English Spelling* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1988) and the lexical databases and other material at dwcummings.com.

Phillip Durkin is Deputy Chief Editor of the *Oxford English Dictionary*, where he has led the dictionary's specialist team of etymologists since the late 1990s. He trained as a mediaevalist and historian of the English language at the University of Oxford, UK, where he completed a doctorate on previously unedited Middle English prose texts. His research focuses on etymology and language contact.

Assignment 4. Write your biography for a conference in your field of study.