# What makes a good lay summary?

What is the focus of the article?

What is the novelty worth communicating?

Target a grade 10 level of comprehension

Avoid hype…

# Getting started

Put your impressions down in point form

Think of a good leader summarizing what you think is the most important thing to communicate

Build your article around these two things

# Some advice

Don’t write like you talk

Test your text by reading it aloud to someone

If you use an image- make it stand alone

Don’t use jargon and abbreviations

Don’t make pointless small talk

Get to the science

# Rubric

- Spelling and grammar check
- Key message from a scientific perspective
- Key issue with respect to disease, drug or societal concern
- Why should the public care?
- What is the aspect most relevant to the general public?

# Some advice

Don’t use jargon and abbreviations

“Researchers postulated benztropine works by blocking specific cellular signaling devices on the cell surface. To confirm, drugs with the same mechanism (specifically blocking M1/M3 receptors) were used to see whether they induced the same net effect as benztropine. Atropine, benztropine’s identical twin, induced OPC differentiation and proliferation.”

# Some advice

Don’t use jargon and abbreviations

“Benztropine was then tested in animal models of MS. Study authors concluded that benztropine dramatically decreased the severity of the disease, and ended disease relapses when compared to placebo-injected animals. These results not only bring benztropine one step closer to clinical trials, but also shows that it produces better results than conventional drugs used to treat relapsing-remitting MS.”

# Some advice

Don’t use jargon and abbreviations

http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0181742

**seismic** event – earthquake; **fractured** - broken; heart attack - **myocardial infarction**; **sutures** - **stitches**; **bacteriology** - the scientific study of bacteria; **metastasis** - spread of cancer cells; **remission** - temporary recovery; **lesion** – injury; **thoracic cavity** - chest; BP - blood pressure; **morphology** – structure; **proxies** – agent; **seminal** – influential; **virulence** – cause disease; **orally** - taken through the mouth; **entomology** - study of **insects**; **limbs** -arms and legs; **anterior** – front; **posterior** – back; **aspirate** – **breathe**; **renal** – **kidneys**; **gastric** - stomach; **tracheal** - wind **pipe**; **hypertension** - high blood pressure

# Some advice

Write clearly…

"In an effort to find a cure, researchers developed cellular and animal models mimicking the pathology of MS and screened a host of compounds against the model in search of new therapies for the disease."

# Some advice

Write clearly…

“In an effort to find a cure, researchers developed cellular and animal models mimicking the features of multiple sclerosis and used them to screen a large number of drugs in search of new therapies for the disease. ”

# Some advice

Don’t make pointless small talk

“A team of 15 researchers, 14 American and one Japanese researchers, may have found a miracle drug, benztropine, to potentially cure multiple sclerosis (MS).

“Oligodendrocytes are like your favourite grandmother who patches up your scraped knees. ”

# Some advice

Explain the problem!

"MS is a disease in which the immune system attacks the insulating, myelin sheath from neurons in the brain and spinal cord. Symptoms of MS are variable, but motor, sensory, and cognitive impairments are frequent. The most common form of MS is relapse-remitting multiple sclerosis. It is characterized by waves of symptoms leading to disability, interspersed with periods of normality."

# Some advice

Get to the science!

"After screening over 100,000 diverse chemical compounds, a research team at the Scripps Research Institute investigated the therapeutic potential of a molecule called benztropine for the treatment of multiple sclerosis (MS). Currently prescribed for the treatment of Parkinson's disease, their results may suggest a future re-purposing of benztropine and a novel therapy for MS."