

Scholarship Skills

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Lecture 6 Supplement: Solidus and Present vs Past tense

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Solidus (Forward Slash)

According to Dupré, most US publishers do not allow it. She suggests that you avoid using it and gives alternative constructions.

Don't use it for equally-weighted pair, use the *en* dash instead

input/output input--output

Don't use and/or .

Past vs Present Tense

Use the same tense throughout a discussion.

Past Tense

Use past tense to indicate that results only apply to the particular study or experiment.

The survey showed that this population believes ...

Use past tense to say what you did (for example in an experiment).

We removed all personal information from the data

Use past tense to point to a result earlier in your paper

In Section 2 we showed that ...

Past vs. Present Tense

Present Tense

Use present tense to indicate that results generalize

The experiments show that loops strongly degrade the performance of Matlab programs.

Use present (or future) tense to say what you are going to discuss later in a paper.

In the next section, we show ...

Hypotheses, theorems, and facts are expressed in present tense.

These rules also work if you're discussing previous authors' work.