

How to Write an Expert Witness Report

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Preface

The authors are trainers for SEAK, Inc., the expert witness training company (www.testifyingtraining.com). SEAK has been running professional training conferences for expert witnesses since 1990. Our onsite group expert witness training clients include Fortune 500 companies; smaller companies; governmental agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Department of Defense; and numerous professional societies. We talk with expert witnesses on an almost-daily basis. We work with expert witnesses one-on-one and help them to prepare to testify, improve their reports, and build their practices.

As a result of all of our interaction and work with expert witnesses, one thing has become abundantly clear to us: *an expert witness's report is a critical, make-or-break document*. On the one hand, a well-written report will make testifying later at deposition and trial much easier and will enhance the reputation of the expert. On the other hand, a poorly written report will damage the expert's reputation, can turn deposition or trial into a nightmare, and can become a career-ending event.

We have written *How to Write an Expert Witness Report* to share with expert witnesses the insights that we have accumulated working with your colleagues over the last twenty-three years and in reviewing thousands of expert reports.

We have tried to make *How to Write an Expert Witness Report* practical and easy to use. We have included executive summaries in each chapter so that you can find most of our bottom-line advice quickly. Each of our numerous examples also has a concise comment containing takeaway advice. We have included numerous Practice Pointers and a quality-control checklist. We have also included a diverse group of sample reports in Appendix D.

We very much hope you find *How to Write an Expert Witness Report* to be an invaluable resource.

Your feedback is always appreciated.

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Contents

Acknowledgments	vii
Related Products by SEAK, Inc.	ix
About the Authors.....	xi
Preface.....	xiii
Chapter 1 Executive Summary.....	1
1.1 Fundamental Expert Witness Report Writing Concepts	1
1.2 Legal Issues and Requirements	1
1.3 Techniques to Make Reports Powerful, Persuasive, and Understandable.....	2
1.4 How to Properly Format Your Expert Witness Report.....	2
1.5 Documenting What You Were Asked to Do.....	3
1.6 How to Document Your Qualifications	3
1.7 Document What You Reviewed, Researched, and Did	4
1.8 Using Charts, Graphs, Tables, Photos, and Timelines to Enhance Reports	4
1.9 How to Express Your Opinion Properly.....	5
1.10 How to Best Rebut Opposing Experts' Opinions.....	6
1.11 Use and Misuse of Boilerplate Language.....	6
1.12 Quality Controlling Your Report.....	6
1.13 Tactics Opposing Counsel May Use to Attack You Through Your Report.....	7
1.14 Assistance from Colleagues	8
Chapter 2 Fundamental Expert Witness Report Writing Concepts.....	9
2.1 Executive Summary.....	9
2.2 Laying the Proper Foundation for Drafting a Solid Expert Witness Report.....	9
2.3 Sketching the Outline and Logical Flow of Your Expert Report	11
2.4 Report Writing and Your Relationship with Retaining Counsel	11
2.5 Discoverability of Draft Reports in Federal Court.....	14
2.6 Discoverability of Draft Reports in State Court.....	16
2.7 Drafting Your Reports in Jurisdictions That Allow Discovery of Draft Reports.....	17
2.8 Electronic Preparation of Expert Reports	18
Chapter 3 Legal Issues and Requirements	21
3.1 Executive Summary.....	21
3.2 Requirements for Expert Witness Reports in Federal Court.....	21
3.3 Reports Used to Support or Oppose Motions for Summary Judgment.....	24
3.4 Timeliness.....	28
3.5 Requirements for Expert Witness Reports in Unfamiliar Jurisdictions.....	29
Chapter 4 Techniques to Make Reports Powerful, Persuasive, and Understandable	33
4.1 Executive Summary.....	33
4.2 State Things Clearly and Directly	33
4.3 Do Not Guess.....	34
4.4 Be Extremely Cautious When Using Absolute Words Such as "Always" and "Never"	40
4.5 Avoid Vague, Equivocal, and Uncertain Conclusions and Bases.....	41
4.6 Do Not Use Emphasis When Expressing Findings or Conclusions	42

4.7	Avoid the Passive Voice—Use the Active Voice.....	43
4.8	Use Precise Language.....	45
4.9	Use First-Person Singular to Refer to Yourself.....	46
4.10	Use Confident Language and Avoid Hedge Words.....	48
4.11	Define Technical Terms and Jargon.....	53
4.12	Use Objective Language and Avoid Subjective Characterizations.....	54
4.13	State Your Opinion but Don't Argue Counsel's Case.....	59
Chapter 5 How to Properly Format Your Expert Witness Report.....		61
5.1	Executive Summary.....	61
5.2	Develop a Template That Works for You.....	61
5.3	Use Topic Headings to Break Up Your Report.....	61
5.4	Use a Cover Page.....	65
5.5	Use Color.....	68
5.6	Table of Contents and Executive Summary.....	70
5.7	Font.....	71
5.8	Headers and Footers.....	72
5.9	Spacing.....	74
5.10	Tables.....	76
5.11	Appendices or Exhibits.....	78
5.12	Questions You Have Been Asked to Address.....	78
5.13	Line Numbers.....	79
Chapter 6 Documenting What You Were Asked to Do.....		81
6.1	Executive Summary.....	81
6.2	The Importance of Getting on the Same Page with Retaining Counsel.....	81
6.3	Why You Should Document Your Assignment.....	81
6.4	Where to Document Your Assignment.....	82
6.5	How to Document Your Assignment.....	83
Chapter 7 How to Document Your Qualifications.....		85
7.1	Executive Summary.....	85
7.2	Why Documenting Your Qualifications Properly Is Important.....	85
7.3	Where to Document Your Qualifications.....	88
7.4	Techniques for Effectively Documenting Your Qualifications.....	89
7.5	Common Mistakes Regarding Documenting Qualifications.....	93
Chapter 8 Documenting What You Reviewed, Researched, and Did.....		97
8.1	Executive Summary.....	97
8.2	How to Document the Documents You Reviewed.....	97
8.3	How to Document Your Research.....	114
8.4	How to Document Your Investigation.....	119
8.5	How to Document the Facts You Considered.....	125
8.6	Supplemental Reports.....	130
Chapter 9 Using Charts, Graphs, Tables, Photos, and Timelines to Enhance Reports.....		131
9.1	Executive Summary.....	131
9.2	Tips to Enhance Your Report.....	131
9.3	Samples of Visual Aids.....	134

Chapter 10 How to Express Your Opinion Properly	147
10.1 Executive Summary.....	147
10.2 State Opinions Clearly and Confidently	148
10.3 State Reasons for Opinions.....	152
10.4 Rule Out Alternative Explanations and Explain Why You Are Able to Rule Them Out.....	159
10.5 State All Opinions to Which You Will Testify	161
10.6 Document a Detailed Methodology Supporting Your Opinions.....	162
10.7 Proceed with Care.....	169
10.8 Credibility of Witnesses	177
10.9 Do Not Go Beyond the Scope of Your Assignment and Give "Extra" Opinions.....	179
10.10 Make Sure You Have Adequate Information	180
10.11 Formatting Your Opinion	181
Chapter 11 How to Best Rebut Opposing Experts' Opinions	185
11.1 Executive Summary.....	185
11.2 When to Draft a Rebuttal.....	185
11.3 Drafting a Powerful and Persuasive Rebuttal	185
11.4 Use Diplomatic and Measured Language	187
Chapter 12 The Use and Misuse of Boilerplate Language.....	191
12.1 Executive Summary.....	191
12.2 Proper Use of Standard Boilerplate Language.....	191
12.3 Common Risks In Using Boilerplate Language.....	193
Chapter 13 Quality Controlling Your Expert Report.....	201
13.1 Executive Summary.....	201
13.2 Properly Quality Controlling Your Expert Witness Report.....	202
13.3 Remove Superfluous Language.....	204
13.4 Watch Out for Red-Flag Words.....	215
13.5 Additional Areas of Concern	227
13.6 Expert Witness Report Quality-Control Checklist.....	234
Chapter 14 Tactics Opposing Counsel May Use to Attack You Through Your Report...237	
14.1 Executive Summary.....	237
14.2 Tactics.....	237
Appendix A Advice from the Trenches.....	259
Appendix B Report Writing Mistakes and How to Avoid Them	279
Appendix C Deposition and Cross-Examination Guide.....	283
Appendix D Model Reports.....	285
Safety Report: OSHA Expert	287
Product Liability Report: Engineering Expert	299
Personal Injury Report: Physician Expert.....	319
Medical Malpractice Report: Physician Expert.....	331
Independent Medical Examination Report: Physician Expert.....	339