

Crisp Printing and Small Type

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Congratulations, all of you. I am really honored to be here speaking—just a few years ago, I was sitting where you are currently seated. And if I recall correctly, I was tense.

So I figure that it is my job to release some of that tension, hopefully without straying too far off-topic.

Therefore, I am going to discuss one of my hobbies: reading academic journals. Seriously. I read academic journals almost daily—sometimes for work, but often just for fun. I love their crisp printing and small type. I love to skim down the tables of contents and count the number of articles with titles I can understand. I love to flip the pages and *attempt* to read whatever catches my eye.

Here are four articles I perused recently:

- “Evaluating gas transfer velocity parameterizations using upper ocean radon distributions” (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1029/2009JC005805>);
- “Effects of Nicotine on Growth and Development in Larval Zebrafish” (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1089/zeb.2006.9994>);
- “The influence of mantle melting on the evolution of Mars” (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.icarus.2010.06.030>);
- “Refined Configuration Results for Extremal Type II Lattices of Ranks 40 and 80” (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1090/S0002-9939-09-10063-1>)

What do these articles have in common? All of them were co-authored by students who once sat (TENSELY) where you sit now—after competing in ScienceMONTGOMERY 2005, my year in the fair.

My ScienceMONTGOMERY cohort has continued pushing the frontiers of knowledge. Most of these articles are on topics unrelated to their authors’ science fair projects. One even represents a student’s complete change of field. But all of them are student research. All of them, in a sense, began here. And all of them are crisply-printed in small type.

Congratulations, all of you. By making it here, you have made an incredible achievement. Now you must continue to push the frontiers of knowledge. And you must write articles, to share your discoveries with the world: scientists, policymakers, and even hobbyists like me.

Keep in mind: It is fun to see an article with a title you understand. It is even more fun to see one with a title that you yourself wrote.

QED