Instructor's Manual: An Introduction

Overview
The excerpt included in the image gallery is taken from a 1677 edition of the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*. First published in 1665, the *Philosophical Transactions* were created during the Scientific Revolution. As the *Philosophical Transactions* were created to disseminate new information to the growing community of natural philosophers, these transactions served as precursors to modern scientific journals. In this in-class activity, students will compare an excerpt from the *Philosophical Transactions* to modern journal articles with a goal of thinking about what similarities and differences they can find between science writing of the past and contemporary science writing.

In order to complete this exercise, students will also need a supplementary scientific journal article (preferably an article published within the last five years). Instructors may either pick an article for all students to read, or have students select their own articles for homework prior to this in-class activity.

Step One: Reading Primary Source Materials
First, students will read over the excerpt from the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*. Suggest that students annotate the passage as they read — highlighting important passages, circling key words, writing down and looking up new vocabulary words in the dictionary, and taking notes on patterns and details they note in the text.

Step Two: Comparing Old and New Scientific Writing
Next, ask students to take out the scientific journal article they read for homework. Working together in small groups, students will analyze the design, organization, style, and content of the articles.